Bengaluru Saturday, October 25, 2025 Pages 30 Vol 78 No 294 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

**Fodder's blessing**

*The heat is rising in Bihar*
*Now held by Nitish Kumar.*
*Tejashwi, Lalu's son*
*Is having lots of fun—*
*In his bid for voters' pyar.*

# DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

**Ad industry doyen Piyush Pandey dies at 70**

P7

Highway horror

- Bus hits two-wheeler, drags it for several metres. Sparks near fuel tank set off blaze
- The two drivers among 27 who manage to escape
- The bus door also gets jammed due to a short circuit, hampering escape
- Only those jolted awake by flames, break windows and escape
- A few locals try to extinguish the flames but the bus was already engulfed by the time rescuers arrived

# 19 burnt alive as blaze guts B'luru-bound bus

## Biker also killed in accident near Kurnool; sleeping victims trapped

**S N V SUDHIR**
CHINNATEKUR (KURNOOL), DHNS

In one of the worst road tragedies in recent times, at least 19 passengers were burnt alive when a Bengaluru-bound private sleeper AC Volvo bus caught fire in the early hours of Friday near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

The horrific accident occurred between 3 am and 3.30 am on the Kurnool highway between Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Preliminary investigations suggested that the accident resulted from the driver's negligence. According to officials, the bus driver, while trying to overtake a motorcyclist, hit the two-wheeler and dragged it for several metres. The biker also died, taking the toll in the accident to 20. It was also raining when the accident took place.

The accident occurred near Chinnatekur village in Kallur mandal, close to Ullindakonda Cross, about 20 km from Kurnool town. The fire reportedly started around 3.30 am in the front section of the V Kaveri Travels bus and quickly engulfed the entire vehicle. As the blaze intensified, 27 people, including the two drivers, managed to break open the emergency exit and escape with minor injuries. The injured were shifted to Kurnool Government Hospital.

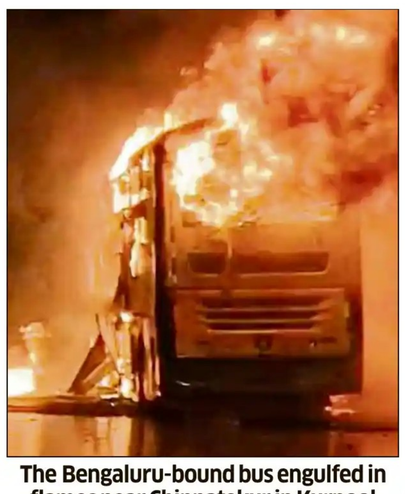
Several passengers couldn't escape the tragedy because it happened at night while they were sleeping, an official said. The bus door got jammed due to a short circuit and the vehicle was completely gutted within minutes.

Only a few, jolted awake by the flames, managed to break the windows and escape through the emergency exit.

Local police and fire department officials rushed to the scene and launched rescue operations. Witnesses said a few locals and passersby tried to extinguish the flames before fire tenders arrived, but the bus was already engulfed by the time rescuers reached the spot.

"I was going to Hyderabad from Puttaparthi on the same highway. As we reached the spot at that time, there was a traffic jam and commotion. A Good Samaritan had sent six people who escaped from the bus in his vehicle to the Kurnool hospital," said a passerby Hyma Reddy.

▸ Accident, Page 4



The Bengaluru-bound bus engulfed in flames near Chinnatekur in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. PTI

### Challans for rash driving

The bus operated with a permit issued in Daman and Diu. It also has 16 pending challans in Telangana, including for rash and dangerous driving, amounting to Rs 23,120. The vehicle had violated traffic rules 16 times, nine of them for entering "no-entry zones", in addition over-speeding and reckless driving.

» Sleeper buses have higher safety concerns: industry insiders
» Negligence evident, high-level probe sought: DKS
» Unregulated pricing
P4

Family members of Golla Ramesh, who died in the accident.

## Survivor saves family, but loses close friend

**S N V SUDHIR**
CHINNATEKUR (KURNOOL), DHNS

Survivors recalled scenes of horror and chaos as the Bengaluru-bound private bus burst into flames near Chinnatekur village in the early hours of Friday, leaving 19 passengers dead.

Within minutes, the entire vehicle was engulfed, giving little chance for those asleep in the air-conditioned sleeper coach to escape.

The Kaveri Travels bus was on its way from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, a journey that normally takes about nine to ten hours. It had been on the road for roughly five hours and had another five to go when tragedy struck.

Survivors said most passengers were asleep when the fire started, leaving them trapped in their compartments.

Among the victims was Golla Ramesh, a 31-year-old Bengaluru resident, who perished along with his wife Anusha (28) and their two children, a boy aged 8 and a girl aged 6.

▸ Survivor, Page 4

# Modi: NDA under Nitish will break Bihar poll records

## But PM stops short of projecting Nitish as the CM face of alliance

**ABHAY KUMAR**
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the NDA under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will break all previous records and power to victory with a massive majority, but stopped short of projecting Nitish as the CM face of the NDA.

BIHAR VOTES

Modi's remarks assume significance in the sense that this was for the first time in recent memory that Modi spoke of contesting an election under the leadership of Nitish and returning to power under 'Sushashan Babu' (Nitish is referred to as Sushashan Babu for his good governance).

Addressing two back-to-back rallies at Samastipur and Begusarai in Bihar, Modi said "the NDA will get its biggest ever mandate in the state".

Calling Mahagatbandhan as 'Mahalatbandhan' (a derogatory term used for those wielding sticks), Modi said the leaders of the RJD-led alliance were most corrupt.

"Despite being out of power for decades, see the way they have treated their own allies, the JMM or the Vikas-sheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief who somehow managed to get assurance on Deputy CM's post," said Modi, while trying to drive a wedge among the constituents of the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Modi, who started his campaign by paying tributes to former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur at Karpoorigram in Samastipur, the birthplace of the ex-CM, asked the gathering to keep the rulers of the jungle raj at bay. "The entire Bihar is saying 'phir se ek baar, NDA sarkar, sushashan sarkar (once again NDA regime, good governance government)," said Modi.

▸ NDA, Page 4
I.N.D.I.A bags 3 RS seats in J&K, Page 7

## Hope and despair, far from home

### Tibetans in Karnataka on what it feels like to live in exile

The SATURDAY STORY

Tibetans are a familiar sight in pockets of Karnataka, distinct in their appearance, attire, language, faith, and rhythms of life. Karnataka was the first Indian state to give them refuge and rehabilitation when they fled the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959.

Some who settled here believed they would return to Tibet in a few years. But more than six decades later, they continue to live in exile. Tibet is now called 'an autonomous region' under China.

For Tibetans born in India, the task is to carry forward the cause of a free Tibet, a place they know only through stories, photographs, and heirlooms. They say India is their second home but yearn to visit the land of their ancestors. But why have some families not opened the bags they fled to India with? Read all about it in today's *Saturday Story*.

*Full story, Page 15*

## 'India, US 'very near' to trade deal'

**NEW DELHI, DHNS & AGENCIES:** India and the US are "very near" to finalising the trade deal, an official said on Friday, even as Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India will not do any deal with a "gun to our head".

Details on Page 13

## Metro Ph 3A underground stations cut by 40m

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Metro's Phase 3A will feature underground stations 40 metres shorter than planned after authorities slashed the overall estimated cost by Rs 2,920 crore, according to two senior officials with direct knowledge of the matter.

Details on Page 3B

## State clears Rs 27k-cr investment proposals

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The State High-Level Clearance Committee, chaired by CM Siddaramaiah, on Friday, approved 13 investment proposals with a total investment of Rs 27,607.26 crore. These projects are expected to generate 8,000 direct jobs.

Page 13

WINGED WONDERS

## 6 new butterfly species found in Arunachal

**SUMIR KARMAKAR**
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Six new species of butterflies have been found in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang Valley, with researchers behind the discovery crediting the river Brahmaputra for facilitating their "faunal continuity".

A team of conservationists found the new species in a community conserved forest village situated at over 1,300 metres in the Siang Valley.

The new species — Litin Onyx (Horaga takanamii), Narrow-banded Royal (Dacalana vui), Tibetan Duke (Euthalia zhaxidunzhui), Tibetan Sergeant (Athyma yui), Tibetan Junglequeen (Stichophthalma neumogeni renqingduojiei), and Mountain Columbine (Stiboges elodinia) — were earlier documented in Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and southeastern Tibet. This is the first time the species has been documented in India.

"Their sighting in Arunachal Pradesh significantly extends their known distribution range and strengthens the evidence of biogeographic continuity between the Metok region of Tibet and India's Siang Valley, both linked by the Yarlung Tsangpo or the Brahmaputra River," said a paper published in the latest issue of Entomon journal.

"The Brahmaputra river appears to play a critical biogeographic role, facilitating faunal continuity between southeastern Tibet and eastern Arunachal Pradesh," the paper further said.

The documentation was carried out by Ashoka Trust for Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), a biodiversity research and conservation organisation based in Bengaluru, and the Litin Community Conservation Society based in Simong village in Upper Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh.

**The Tibetan Junglequeen, one of the new species of butterflies found in Arunachal Pradesh.** CREDIT: ATREE, BENGALURU

▸ Butterfly, Page 4

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BROKEN STORMWATER PLANS

A stormwater drain, clogged for years and used as a dumpyard for debris near National Games Village, Koramangala. (Right) Construction debris dumped in a stormwater drain near Ozone Entrance Road in Whitefield. DH PHOTOS/SHREE DN

# Clear drains remain a pipedream

Once famed for its lakes, Bengaluru now drowns in each monsoon due to crumbling drains and chronic mismanagement of stormwater

**SHREE D N**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Huge, dangerous openings on the roads with garbage and dirty water visible inside. Some of them marked with green mesh to warn people about the open drain beneath, while others filled with concrete to prevent disasters. Welcome to Ozone Entrance Road in Whitefield—all because the access road for many villas and residential communities is built on a stormwater drain, causing clogs, floods and panic among residents in the area.

The stench is unbearable, and the health consequences are real for residents. Residents say a Swiggy delivery person recently fell into one of the openings with his vehicle and was rescued by the residents.

The continuation of this drain, which was about 80 feet wide a few years ago, has now shrunk to less than 10 feet in parts.

The area features all the problems that typically plague stormwater drains in Bengaluru: garbage and construction debris dumping, road built on the drain, encroachment, poor planning, no desilting, sewage inlets by residents—you name it, this area has it.

Officials in charge of the area say their task is to clear the stormwater drain, and sewage and garbage are not their concern. However, residents pay out of pocket and hire people to clear the weeds and ensure water flows smoothly. "It's like we pay taxes and then fund this too," says Anupama, a resident. Many residents also complain about dengue and mosquito issues.

Elsewhere in North Bengaluru, an upcoming residential apartment complex has a sewage treatment plant but lacks dual plumbing to use treated water for flushing.

When asked why, the builder throws a practical problem: "Buyers do not prefer it, because the use of chemicals and any lapse in treatment affects the quality of water, which ends up staining toilets." To save his business, he lets the treated water into a minor stormwater drain on the road. As a result, stormwater will contain sewage even in summer.

Most of the newer areas added to Bengaluru face issues with stormwater management. Only the core city area and well-planned layouts are free of stormwater drain woes, while the city floods in low-lying areas during heavy rain.

There were examples of sewage entering the stormwater drain near Vinayakanagar Layout, an area between Kanakpura Road and Bannerghatta Road. "BWSSB has been promising a solution for the last three years. We took it to the National Human Rights Commission and other fora," explains R Rajagopalan, founder of Bengaluru Coalition.

A hole on the Ozone Entrance Road in Whitefield built on a drain was covered by residents to alert passersby.

Bengaluru's K100 Citizens' Waterway Project showcases a tale of contrasts where some sections have transformed into vibrant public spaces, while other stretches continue to struggle with sewage inflow and neglect. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A large portion of the city's sewage network is based on convenience—running through stormwater drains. The issue is that BWSSB chambers and pipes are damaged, and sewage flows directly into the stormwater drain and then to lakes. "We will escalate this case to the NGT soon," he says.

He explains that construction encroachment, RCC covers and roads built on drains are the major issues. Flooding occurs because of poor design, capacity issues, and the fact that drains are a concretised, limited-scope pathway for water to flow," he explains.

"There are no silt traps in the drains, though they kept talking about it for years. An estimated cost of a silt trap was Rs 1 crore, which is ridiculously high, but it is not a feasible solution," he says. Desilting is an issue that has no accountability; the bills are submitted even when the work is not done," he adds.

"No one verifies the numbers the corporation officials throw concerning encroachments, in response to court orders," he adds.

He adds that he and a few affected residents have been pursuing many cases related to flooding and encroachment, including those in the Lokayukta and high court. "We formed a working group and shared photos with officials to focus on particular areas. We recommended drone monitoring and weekly reports to be published, but the result was not encouraging," he adds.

He calls the K-100 project, which remodelled and beautified selected drains, a sheer waste of public money (Rs 200 crore). "Everyone thinks of the Shantinagar Bus Depot area as a shining sample of K-100. Go further, a little downstream, or drive to CV Raman Nagar or Domlur flyover to see the reality of K-100," he says. "It will never get fixed unless the problem is fixed at the root; adding local STPs is not the solution," he adds.

"Our latest concern is the planned 300 kilometres of roads next to stormwater drains. Unless it is designed right and allows water to percolate, it will not be ideal. The idea here is to prevent private encroachment on roads. However, the NGT does not recommend building roads in the buffer zone; it asks to keep it open," he points out.

"The design of the roadside drains is totally wrong. They allow for garbage to fall inside when the pourakarmikas sweep," says Ashwin Mahesh, an urbanist based in Bengaluru. Then comes the task of desilting and removing garbage. Contractors chosen for such tasks are substandard and cheaper, and the focus is not on the quality or longevity of the work.

He asks why water should be carried to lower areas at all, and suggests digging soakpits in stormwater drains in higher areas. He feels regular maintenance of the drains is crucial. "The city has been built badly by bad engineering; we are paying for it now," he quips, adding that there is no shortcut to building infrastructure correctly to address all problems at once.

## A flood-resilient city: Many miles to go

A CAG report tabled in 2021, along with an elaborate analysis and indictment of all concerned departments for their failure to manage urban flooding, also offered recommendations to BBMP and BWSSB. One of them asked the BBMP and BWSSB to jointly prepare a plan of action to prevent sewage from flowing into drains, with the implementation to be monitored by the state government.

Ever since, BWSSB and BBMP (now GBA) have been playing catch-up.

"Ensuring that apartments do not leave water into storm water drains is a collective responsibility of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), municipal corporations and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). However, the legal mandate of ensuring no treated water goes to stormwater drains is with the KSPCB, so other departments cannot interfere," says Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB Chairman.

According to him, the capacity to handle sewage is the biggest issue. "We are expanding the capacity as of now, with the help of a World Bank loan," he adds. The World Bank will provide a loan of Rs 1070 crore to expand the wastewater treatment plant and sewage pumping system in Bengaluru..

"Natural slope is another challenge to carry sewage water," he adds, explaining that while Vrushabhavathi and Arkavathi valleys have good slope, Koramangala-Challaghtaa Valley has its challenges with respect to slope, causing problems in sewage flow. The issue with the slope also affects stormwater flow.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will get a loan of Rs 2,000 crore from the World Bank for the Bengaluru Water Resilience Project. Out of the total 860 kilo metres of stormwater drains in the city, 173.89 kilo metres of temporary drains will be upgraded by constructing retaining walls and structures, while 80 kilo metres of existing drains will get concrete walls under the project.

The GBA will also get Rs 238.72 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund under the Urban Flood Risk Management Programme (UFRMP), as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. This will focus on removing choke points in low-lying areas, lakes, and flood points, and on building bridges where required.

Gayathri Muralidharan, co-managing partner of Urban Water Programme, WellLabs, says that the organisation is partnering with the GBA and KSNDMC on the issue. "The project will explore blue, green and grey solutions to manage stormwater. Nature-based solutions such as rain gardens and recharge pits will be integrated into it. There will be a plan for buffer management as well," she says. There is also a flood master plan that will use years of data to create a template to help the city prevent future floods, she adds.

These plans will be replicated at the local level. "Zonal plans will be completed before the next monsoon. There will be a stormwater management template done by the GBA shared to all zones, which the zones will localise according to the needs and implement before the next monsoon," says Rajendra K V, Commissioner of Bengaluru West Corporation. He says regular tasks such as garbage collection, chainlink fencing, desilting, coordinating with BWSSB, and ensuring water flows smoothly are the corporation's responsibility.

When asked why the city still floods and encroachments persist, GBA officials say the kind of rain and cloudbursts the city has been seeing these days are to blame.

They admit inefficiency and inability to handle pressure in the clearance of drain encrachment.

"In an ideal condition, the city's drains cannot have dry weather flow, but as of now, it exists due to lacunae in the system. The BWSSB is struggling to improve its capacity. Once the capacity is expanded, we can make sure stormwater drains will remain empty in summer and non-rain seasons," an official said, preferring anonymity.

After the municipalities were separated, not all the files have been transferred to the local corporations yet, though they now have to manage them individually.

Feedback: pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

## 380 trees to be removed from CRPF campus in Yelahanka

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Over 380 trees on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) campus in Yelahanka may soon be felled, as the CRPF has sought permission for their removal.

A notification by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said the CRPF plans to construct a peripheral road within the campus, necessitating the removal of the trees. Most of them are located near the eastern and western sections of the premises.

Several residents of Yelahanka have raised concerns, saying the area has long maintained a rich green cover because of trees in institutional spaces like the CRPF campus.

The GBA has given the public 10 days to submit objections.

Objections can be sent either by post or email to: Deputy Conservator of Forests and Tree Officer, GBA, NR Square, Bengaluru–02 (email: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com); and DIG, GC, CRPF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru (email: diggcblrbuildingbranch@gmail.com)

## Farmers stick to 2013 compensation for Bengaluru Business Corridor project

**Reject compensation options offered**

**SHRADDHA AK**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as the government sought to ease the long-standing dispute over compensation for landowners along the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), farmers stuck to their demand for payments under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act.

They opposed the five types of compensation offered, questioning why the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) was reluctant to follow the law.

"This project is designed to profit at the cost of farmers," said Mavallipura Srinivas, leading the union of landowners. "We do not oppose the road. We want fair compensation for our losses, not just for the land, but also for the 20 years of land rights we have lost," he added.

**MAVALLIPURA SRINIVAS**
(leading the union of landowners)

"This project is designed to profit at the cost of farmers. We do not oppose the road. We want fair compensation for our losses, not just for the land, but also for the 20 years of land rights we have lost.

The project, notified in 2005–06, has stalled over compensation, leaving landowners unable to develop, build houses, or mortgage their property. Many farmers have fallen into debt since their land can only be used for cultivation.

They said the final notification issued in 2007 was no longer valid. "Consent of landowners and farmers has lapsed. Compensation should now follow the 2013 Land Acquisition Act," they said, noting that the BDA repeatedly suppressed guidance values to keep compensation low.

M Ramesh of Ramagundanahalli spoke about how 20 years of lost property rights have affected livelihoods, making it difficult to pay for children's education or arrange marriages.

He contrasted their plight with families who lost land for the Kempegowda International Airport, now working as cleaners or housekeepers, and asked, "Why steal the future of your own people to nurture the future of outsiders?"

## Panic buttons seldom work: Cab drivers flag safety lapses

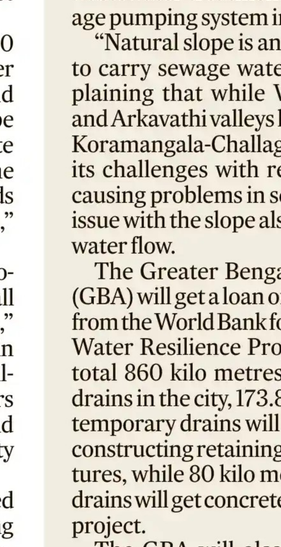
**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cab drivers across Bengaluru have raised concerns that Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDs) and emergency panic buttons are not working as mandated.

In 2023, Karnataka made the installation of these safety devices mandatory for all public service and goods vehicles with national permits. For a cab with five seats, at least three panic buttons are required.

However, the buttons rarely work, said Somashekar R, State General Secretary of Namma Chalakara Trade Union (NCTU).

"While the initiative has good intent, it has turned into a complete hoax. Once the panic button is pressed, it is supposed to send an SOS notification to the control room and local police stations. I myself have visited the control room and it is a top-notch facility. But the drivers are not getting any response from the control room," he told *DH*.



On Monday, the reporter found that panic buttons in five cabs were not functional. "When they are operational, there is a red light. But that is very rare. Once a customer pressed the button out of curiosity, and there was a call from the control room," said Shashi, a driver.

Somashekar filed an RTI application a year ago seeking details about the VLTDs, panic buttons, and the tenders issued. He has yet to receive a reply.

"There are only a select few authorised manufacturers appointed to install these devices, and they charge as they please," he said.

After drivers staged protests, the government capped the price of one VLTD at Rs 5,424, each panic button at Rs 325, and annual network and maintenance charges at Rs 1,800. But drivers say the installation costs between Rs 12,000 and Rs 15,000.

"We have no option but to pay these steep prices because if we do not, our fitness certificates will not be renewed. When I got the equipment installed, I tried pressing the panic button, but it never worked. I think the GPS is working," said Abdul Baig, who installed the device in November 2024.

To avoid the cost, many cab drivers renew their fitness certificates in neighbouring states.

A senior Transport Department officer said most yellow-board cars have installed the safety equipment. However, cab unions estimate about 50% are still pending.

**'No complaints received'**

A senior official at the Bengaluru police command center said no complaints had been received about faulty panic buttons.

## Resolve burning issues first, then discuss power sharing: BJP

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** BJP Leader and Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N Ravikumar on Friday told the ruling Congress to first resolve the burning issues in the state and then discuss power sharing.

Ravikumar was referring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra's comment that Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi would be his father's political successor.

Speaking to reporters, Ravi Kumar said: "In the chief minister's home district, Mysuru, a female foeticide racket is going on in a farmhouse. What's the chief minister's reaction about this and what's the government's strategy to stop this? What will (Health) Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao say about hundreds of female foeticides?"

"In Siddaramaiah's home district, a child from the nomadic Hakki Pikki community was raped and murdered. Why hasn't any action been taken yet?"

Claiming that drug peddling was rampant in Mysuru district, Ravi Kumar wondered what the police department was doing.

The BJP MLC said, "As many as 2,300 farmers in the state have died by suicide. Seven government employees have died by suicide. A librarian in Kalaburgi and a valveman in Chamarajanagar have also died by suicide. Resolve these issues before raking up your succession issues..."

## BWSSB becomes first Indian utility to join global Smart Water Networks Forum

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has become the first Indian water utility to join the Smart Water Networks Forum (SWAN), a global body dedicated to advancing digital and data-driven water management.

The membership places the BWSSB alongside leading international utilities and technology innovators working toward sustainable water management. It also grants access to global best practices, research collaborations, and emerging smart water technologies.

"This membership marks a new chapter in Bengaluru's water story. It's not just recognition of our progress — it's an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and lead India's transition to smarter, more resilient water systems," said Ramprasat Manohar V, Chairman, BWSSB.

The BWSSB said it has already taken pioneering steps in smart metering, real-time monitoring, wastewater reuse and citizen engagement platforms — initiatives that align with SWAN's mission to leverage data for a sustainable water future.

"With this partnership, the BWSSB aims to strengthen collaborations with global utilities, adopt emerging technologies, and scale up its vision of making Bengaluru a water-secure city by 2026," the board said.

## Curtain raiser held for S&T conclave

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), under the Department of Space (DOS), had organised a curtain raiser event at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru for the upcoming Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC 2025).

ESTIC 2025, organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, will be held from November 3 to 5, at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The pre-event by ISRO focused on the 11 Space Technology themed talks, panel discussions, and activities set to take place during ESTIC 2025.

# RSS route march: HC directs holding of peace meeting

### Authorities orally asked not to prolong the issue

**AMBARISH B**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kalaburagi bench of the Karnataka high court on Friday directed the district administration as well as Chittapur taluk administration to hold a peace meeting on October 28, 2025, with regard to the Patha Sanchalana (route march) by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on November 2.

Justice MGS Kamal also orally asked the authorities not to prolong the issue.

The court was hearing the petition filed by Ashok Patil, a representative of RSS. The petition initially sought a direction to the authorities to grant permission to conduct the route march on October 19, 2025, from Bajaj Kalyana Mantap and returning to Bajaj Kalyana Mantap-Chittapura ground. The petition was amended after the authorities declined to grant permission citing that several other organisations too sought permission to hold the procession at the same time and place. The court had directed the authorities to submit a report after considering the fresh application filed by the RSS.

During the hearing, Advocate General (AG) Shashikiran Shetty sought two weeks' time to resolve the issue, clarifying that the application filed by the RSS has not been rejected. Submitting the report of the district administration, the AG said that from October 19, 2025, some kind of tension has prevailed in Chittapur town and across taluk due to various organisations issuing statements in favour and against the route march on print, electronic and social media platforms. He further said that a turbulent atmosphere has been created and the Superintendent of Police apprehended the possibility of a large gathering and possible public disorder. The AG said that the authorities will have to hold a peace meeting to enable the request made by various associations, including the petitioner RSS.

On the other hand, senior advocate Arun Shyam, appearing for petitioner, insisted that the authorities shall ensure that the patha sanchalana is permitted and not postponed beyond November 2. He said that the assistance of central forces can be utilised.

Justice Kamal directed the authorities to hold a peace meeting on October 28 and also to submit the report to the court on October 30. "The petitioner shall also cooperate with respondent authorities taking appropriate decisions in the matter keeping in mind the situation in Chittapur town and taluk.

List this matter on October 30 at 2.30 pm for reporting the outcome of the meeting," the court said.

## Confer Sahakari Rathna awards in line with Rajyotsava awards: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said that Sahakari Rathna awards should be conferred in line with Rajyotsava awards.

He was speaking at the preparatory meeting of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week in the city. Siddaramaiah said, "If the Karnataka Sahakari Rathna award is given on the model of the Rajyotsava award, it would be good. Earlier, hundreds of awards used to be given. Now, the number of awards is in line with the number of years of celebration."

Siddaramaiah even suggested to give one award per district. "Giving one award per district would be appropriate. If needed, Bengaluru may have two to five awards," he stated.

During the meeting, Siddaramaiah said that due to unavoidable reasons, the Cooperative Department had come under his charge.

"I have supported the cooperative sector from the beginning. Cooperative federations need to be strengthened. When I was an MLA, I had insisted that milk producers' unions must operate under the control of farmers. Even now, they continue to function accordingly. I have supported this sector from the beginning,' he said.

Applauding the production of 1 crore litres of milk per day in the state, the chief minister said, "it is a matter of great pride." All associations and institutions under the cooperative principle must be empowered, he opined.

Talking about issue of farm loan waivers, he said that loans of most farmers in the state had been waived. Meanwhile, the chief minister opined that slogans for Cooperative Week should be declared by the respective states instead of the Central government.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Minister H K Patil, MLAs Venkatesh and Raghavendra Hitnal, Karnataka State Cooperative Federation President G T Devegowda and others were present.

## Don't delay approval for investment proposals, says CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Siddaramaiah.

Pointing out that neighbouring states – Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – were much faster in approving investment proposals, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday instructed officials across departments to expedite the process in Karnataka as well.

Siddaramaiah, who chaired the 'Improving Ease of Doing Business' meeting, warned officials against dragging their feet on approvals for investment proposals.

While the neighbouring states took between seven and 66 days to approve proposals, the same process took 20 to 120 days in Karnataka, rued the CM.

"The timeframe for issuance of NOCs must be reduced to prevent delays in investments being realised in the state," said Siddaramaiah, who directed the Chief Secretary to, in turn, intimate all departments about ensuring speedy approval for proposals.

The CM took exception to officials citing Supreme Court orders for withholding approval. "Neighbouring states are bound by the same orders too and yet they are expediting the approval process," said Siddaramaiah.

Any time lost owing to such delays could cost the state dearly, said Siddaramaiah. "We have to compete with Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh to attract investments. So, a separate proposal must be submitted to shorten the duration for issuing an NOC," he said.

The CM said that amendments would be made to existing laws, such as those pertaining to land conversion and, the Fire and Environment Department Rules, to create an environment conducive to industrial development in the state.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, who was in attendance at the meeting, too stressed the need to hasten the process of granting permission for new industries.

"Tamil Nadu boasts 51 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that account for an 8.9% share of that state's revenue, while the contribution of the 37 SEZs to Karnataka's revenue is around 8.2%," said Priyank, calling on officials to focus on ensuring a favourable environment for investment in the state.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Industries Minister M B Patil, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar and others were present.

## Power play: High command will take final call, says Mahadevappa

### Yathindra's statement on Jarkiholi is twisted, claims CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's MLC-son Yathindra's comment that Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi could be his father's political successor, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa said on Friday that all decisions related to the Karnataka Congress are left to the high command.

"If you (media) understand it in different ways, what should I say? Only he (Yathindra) knows what he has said. None of us knows. The high command will decide what has to happen and when. Apart from that decision, nothing else will have any credence. The final decision has to be made by the chief minister, KPCC president and the AICC."

Both Mahadevappa and Satish are known loyalists of the chief minister, having followed Siddaramaiah for over two decades. They left the JD(S) after Siddaramaiah was expelled from the regional party in 2005. When talks of power sharing have emerged over the past two-and-a-half years, both the leaders, time and again, reiterated that Siddaramaiah will continue as the chief minister.

Kunigal MLA H D Ranganath, a relative of Shivakumar, said: "Our party is a high command party. There's discipline in our party. I somehow feel these comments are not necessary. I hope he will understand it."

When asked if there were differences within the Congress, Ranganath said: "There will be small issues in everything. I feel these issues will happen when the focus on one's responsibilities reduces. But I don't want to comment on others."

Meanwhile Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "When I called and asked my son, he said that he had spoken about Satish Jarkiholi in an ideological manner and that he hadn't mentioned that any specific person should be the chief minister. His statement has been twisted," he said.

Amidst all these developments, there is information that Siddaramaiah is going to Delhi on November 05 for private programmes and he might meet high command.

**Won't say anything: DKS**

When asked if there will be any notice issued against Yathindra's comments, Shivakumar said: "I won't say anything. I will speak with the concerned persons."

## High Court suggests comprehensive overhaul of KCS Act & Rules

BENGALURU, DHNS

**HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA**

> The KCS Act, 1959 and the KCS Rules, 1960 have been subjected to piecemeal amendments over decades. Unfortunately, while introducing such amendments, the interplay and cascading effect on existing provisions do not appear to have been sufficiently considered."

The Karnataka high court has suggested a new, consolidated Karnataka Cooperative Societies (KCS) Act and Karnataka Cooperative Societies Rules by replacing the current legislation. Justice Suraj Govindaraj said that a comprehensive overhaul of the present statute was urgently required.

"The KCS Act, 1959 and the KCS Rules, 1960 have been subjected to piecemeal amendments over decades. Unfortunately, while introducing such amendments, the interplay and cascading effect on existing provisions do not appear to have been sufficiently considered. As a result, the statute has become a patchwork of conflicting provisions that are no longer suited to the modern socio-economic environment. Courts have attempted to apply the principle of harmonious construction, but where reconciliation itself becomes impossible, legislative reform is the only viable solution," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

**'Conflicting areas'**

The court noted several conflicting areas pertaining to the membership rights, disqualification, preparation of voter lists, conduct of elections, appointment of administrators, jurisdictional overlaps, surcharge proceedings, and audit obligations.

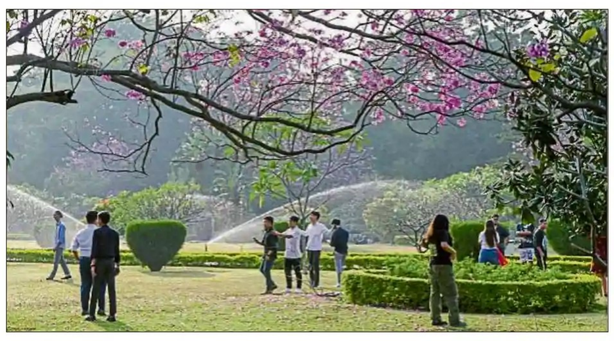
"Many provisions have been rendered otiose by technological and socio-economic changes. Today, co-operative societies are burdened with duplicative filings, effectively replicating compliances under the Companies Act, 2013. Just as the Companies Act was comprehensively revamped to address contemporary requirements, a modernised co-operative law must be framed to ensure efficiency, transparency, and alignment with constitutional principles of co-operative autonomy under Article 43B. Without such reform, co-operatives will remain entangled in unproductive litigation, stifling their true purpose of empowering members economically and socially," the court said.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj cited the Income Tax Act, 2025, which is scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2026.

**'Legislative clarity'**

"That (Income Tax Act, 2025) was necessitated on account of the Income Tax Act 1961 being amended over 65 times in six decades, which became overly complex. The new law, which largely retains existing tax principles, aims to simplify the text and remove redundant provisions to reduce litigation and make compliance easier for taxpayers. A new, consolidated Co-operative Societies Act and Rule for Karnataka is required to replace the current legislation. The importance of legislative clarity where recurring conflicts generate avoidable litigation cannot be overstressed. The same reasoning applies here with greater force, given the sheer volume of disputes arising under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies framework before the Registrars as also this Court," the court said.

The Registrar (Judicial) has been directed to forward a copy of the order to the Chairman of the Law Commission of Karnataka, with a request to consider the observations and recommendations.



Cubbon Park, Bengaluru's iconic green space. DH FILE PHOTO

## Cubbon Park Walkers Association to skip DyCM's event

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cubbon Park Walkers Association (CPWA) has announced a boycott of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's 'Walk with Bengaluru' event scheduled for Sunday at Cubbon Park.

The association said it was deeply disappointed as it had been completely sidelined and not consulted during the planning of the official programme.

Confirming the boycott, CPWA President S Umesh said, "We understand that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is visiting Cubbon Park as part of his 'Walk with Bengaluru' campaign.

However, the Cubbon Park Walkers Association, which has been striving to protect the park for over 15 years, has been neither informed about the event nor consulted by the authorities."

The CPWA said it has played a key role in safeguarding the park and argued that any initiative concerning its future must involve their experience and inputs.

"We would like to underline that converting this into an official event without involving the stakeholders and custodians of Cubbon Park is a futile exercise and will not lead to any sustainable solutions for the park's protection," Umesh added.

The association urged the government and authorities to recognise the importance of community participation and to hold consultations with the CPWA on all matters related to the preservation of Bengaluru's central green space.

# BTP study reveals traffic exceeds road capacity on ORR, Sarjapur Rd

### Rs 450-cr ORR facelift to include bus lanes: Expert

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A study by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has found that vehicle movement along the 17-km stretch of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Sarjapur Road exceeds road capacity by two to three times, causing heavy congestion at Iblur Junction and frequent traffic snarls on the ORR.

The study recorded vehicular movement during peak hours and found a "critically high" traffic load on parts of ORR and Sarjapur Road, especially where they meet at Iblur Junction.

On Sarjapur Road, the volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio is 3.57, while on the ORR it is 2.22.

The V/C ratio indicates how full a road is compared to what it can handle. A value near 1.0 means the road is at its limit; anything above shows congestion. As this increases, queues and delays worsen.

Sarjapur Road, designed for 2,400 Passenger Car Units (PCUs), now carries between 6,450 and 8,586 PCUs moving towards Iblur during peak hours. The stretch from Iblur Junction to Bellandur Main Road Junction, meant for 4,800 PCUs, handles about 10,657 PCUs.

#### Bus lanes

RK Misra, independent director at Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B.SMILE), said bus priority lanes form part of the Rs 450-crore ORR facelift project.

"We are not white-topping the ORR, but using good-quality asphalt. It will also have bus lanes, cycling tracks, and pedestrian infrastructure. The tender is likely to be floated in early November, and work should begin in January 2026," he said.

However, restoring bus priority lanes "looks difficult" until Namma Metro work is completed, said Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

"During the Covid pandemic, the concept worked because of low pedestrian movement and reduced traffic. That is not the case anymore," he said.

Srinivas Alavilli, urban mobility expert and WRI fellow, said the BTP study proves that "even if the road width is magically increased, vehicles will continue to remain stuck".

He believes public transport is the only sustainable solution and that reviving bus priority lanes could encourage more commuters to use it.

"ORR has the highest number of BMTC buses in the city. You will find one every two minutes. About 3,360 buses, including 1,533 AC buses, ply on ORR daily," he posted on X.

The BMTC managing director declined to comment.

A long line of vehicles inch forward on a stretch of the Outer Ring Road. DH FILE PHOTO

**What is V/C ratio?**

**On Sarjapur Road, the volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio is 3.57, while on the ORR it is 2.22.**

**The volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio indicates how full a road is compared to what it can handle. A value near 1.0 means the road is at its limit; anything above shows congestion. As this increases, queues and delays worsen.**

## DyCM orders survey for Greater Bengaluru expansion

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said that he has ordered a survey of areas around Bengaluru that would be included into the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in the future.

"Someday in the future, the entire Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) area will become Bengaluru City. We added 110 villages and decades later, we are now giving them water and sanitation. This should not repeat. So, we have started working in these areas now only. Before there is rampant development in these areas, we need to widen roads in these areas and make plans to manage traffic," he said.

He added that there was a need to focus on planning in these areas from now on and instructed the officials to follow zonal regulations while granting plans.

DK Shivakumar

Shivakumar was recently given charge of 12 local bodies in Bengaluru Urban District under the Bengaluru Development portfolio. On Friday, he held a meeting with representatives of these 12 local bodies.

"I have directed officials to digitise all property records in their limits. Like in Bengaluru, option will be given for 'B' khata properties to get 'A' khata. I have also asked them to collect property tax as per the value-based system followed in Bengaluru," he said.

He further said indiscriminate dumping of waste from Bengaluru took place in some of these areas. "This should stop. We need to streamline waste collection and processing in these areas," he said. "People in these areas should inculcate civic sense from now. They will join Bengaluru one day," he said.

## Two tiger cubs adopted

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A real estate company has come forward to adopt two tiger cubs at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, the BBP said in a statement on Friday.

Prestige Estates Projects Limited has adopted the cubs, Simba and Sheri, for a period of five years. The support will cover their nutrition, veterinary care, habitat enrichment and educational outreach programmes, ensuring the cubs thrive under a structured and humane framework.

"We welcome more citizens to adopt an animal and become a part of our BBP family," the statement added.

## Actor Divya Suresh's car hits bike; woman sustains knee injury

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In a hit-and-run case, the Byatarayanapura traffic police interrogated actor and former Bigg Boss contestant Divya Suresh on Wednesday after her car allegedly rammed into a two-wheeler, leaving a woman seriously injured on MM Road near Bapujinagar on October 4.

The actor reportedly fled the scene without stopping. CCTV footage later confirmed that Divya was driving the car when the accident occurred.

A senior police officer said that a complaint was filed by Kiran, who was riding a bike with his relatives, Anusha and Anitha. The three were heading to a hospital near Girinagar when a stray dog began chasing the bike. Kiran turned slightly to the right to avoid it, and at that moment, Divya's car allegedly hit the two-wheeler, injuring Anitha, who was seated at the rear.

The actor did not stop. Anitha, a tailor from Mysuru, suffered a fractured kneecap and has been unable to walk. She was treated at a private hospital, and her medical expenses reportedly amounted to around Rs 2 lakh.

Police said Divya has not contacted the injured or her family since the incident. Further investigations are on.

### Change in terminal

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Train numbers 02863/02864 Santragachi-Yeshwantpur–Santragachi will terminate at and originate from Yelahanka Junction instead of Yeshwantpur for the remaining six trips up to November.

The revised arrival and departure timings at Yelahanka Junction will be as follows:

- **Train number 02863:** Arrival at 12.55 am (Saturday)
- **Train number 02864:** Departure at 4.45 am (Saturday)

**There is no change in the timings and stoppages at other stations.**

## Bank employee killed as bike skids on bad road

### Run over by truck; brother sustains minor injuries

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 26-year-old bank employee was killed after a speeding truck ran over her when the bike she was riding pillion on skidded on a poorly maintained road at Huskur–Makali in Madanayakanahalli police limits on Friday.

The deceased, identified as Priyanka P, was a resident of Alur BDA Apartments. Her brother, Naresh Kumar, who was riding the two-wheeler, escaped with minor injuries.

The siblings were on their way to the Madawara metro station around 11 am when the accident occurred.

Police said Kumar lost control of the bike due to the bad condition of the service road. Priyanka fell to the right side, while Kumar fell to the left. A truck approaching from the opposite direction ran over Priyanka, killing her on the spot. Passersby alerted Madanayakanahalli police, who reached the spot and seized the vehicle.

In his complaint, Kumar, a businessman, blamed the poor road condition for the accident and sought action against the authorities concerned. The police have detained the truck driver as part of the investigation.

#### 3rd fatality in October

This is the third fatal incident in Bengaluru this month caused by bad roads.

On October 11, Cheeranjeevi (23) died after being crushed between an autorickshaw and a school bus in Gunjur, South East Bengaluru, when the bus driver lost control due to a damaged road.

A week earlier, Dhanushree (22) was run over by a truck after she fell from her scooter while trying to avoid loose gravel on another poorly maintained stretch.

## Couple killed, 3 injured in car-truck collision on Bengaluru–Tumakuru Highway

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 60-year-old man and his wife were killed, while three members of their family sustained injuries after their car rammed into a truck near T Begur in the Nelamangala traffic police limits early on Friday.

Traffic movement was briefly disrupted until the police cleared the vehicles.

The deceased have been identified as Shivalinga Gowda (60) and his wife Pramila (55). The injured — Honnamma, Suneel and Basavaraju — were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Police said the family was travelling from Gadag to Bengaluru to visit a private hospital for Honnamma's deteriorating health. Around 6.30 am, on the Bengaluru–Tumakuru National Highway, Suneel, who was driving, reportedly lost control after a truck driver applied sudden brakes without any indication.

The impact mangled the left side of the car. The police rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies to the Nelamangala Government Hospital for postmortem. The truck driver has been detained, and a case of negligent driving has been registered against him.


**Chhattisgarh InfoTech Promotion Society (CHiPS)**
2nd Floor, SDC Building, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492002
Phone:0771-4014158, Fax: 0771-4066205, Email: ceochips@nic.in

**TENDER NOTICE**

System Tender No.: 178114 Raipur, dated: 24/10/2025

Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHIPS) invites online proposal from eligible bidders for **"Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency for Implementation of Enterprise Archival System"** for Directorate of Public Relations. The Information cum Tender document can be downloaded from website **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** & **https://chips.gov.in.** The CEO, CHIPS reserve the full right to change the terms & conditions, select/reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
S-45685/1 CEO, CHiPS

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No.CAO-CN-MS-EPC-NL-03-2025 DATED 17-10-2025

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Raliway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderers/ Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

**NAME OF THE WORK** : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for the Construction of New Railway BG line between Chainage 3.000 KM and Chainage 54.500 KM between Tindivanam (Excl.) & Cheyyar Stations (Reach I) & between Chainage 54.500 and Chainage 82.000 between Cheyyar & Arani (Excl) (Reach II) including Utility Shifting & 2x25 KV OHE Electrification in Proposed New BG Railway line between Tindivanam and Nagari new BG line project (FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING & ELECTRICAL WORKS on EPC MODE.

| Cash Value ₹ (Cr. ) | Earnest Money Deposit (₹ ) | Period of Completion (Months) | Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs | Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs. | Physical Submission of documents before 17.00 hrs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 856.18 | 20000000 | 24 | 16-12-2025 | 14-11-2025 | 5 DAYS |

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.

Chief Engineer, (Construction), Egmore, Chennai 600 008

**S.E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER**

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2025/39 Dated : 24.10.2025
TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

| Sl No. | Tender No. | Due Date | Brief Description | Quantity | EMD Amount (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 56255184A | 25.11.25 | SMPS-based Modular Power Supply Arrangement for VDU (42-85 inch) etc. | 35 Set | 1,61,070/- |
| 2. | 25253565A | 03.11.25 | Contact Segment for 1500 Amps. Capacity Reverser. | 377 Nos. | 1,48,730/- |
| 3. | 29253788A | 07.11.25 | Overhauling kit for LRU, Control Portion. | 139 Set | 3,90,370/- |
| 4. | 29253281A | 07.11.25 | Set of Lock Nut F.S. All Steel etc. | 262 Set | 6,80,150/- |
| 5. | 29253151 | 14.11.25 | Set of Axle Box Bearing Component for WAG-9 Loco | 103 Set | 1,92,400/- |
| 6. | 18253031 | 21.11.25 | GP Relay, 3 N.O+3 N.C, Interlock Contacts. | 422 Nos. | 1,45,890/- |
| 7. | 29255095 | 06.11.25 | Set of Cylindrical Roller Bearing. | 200 Set | 2,80,600/- |
| 8. | 29255105 | 06.11.25 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of an additional hardware. | 900 Nos. | 7,84,990/- |
| 9. | 29253281A | 07.11.25 | Set of Lock Nut F.S. All Steel etc. | 262 Set | 6,80,150/- |
| 10. | 25253609 | 10.11.25 | Silicone Rubber Compound Sealant. | 13280 Kgs. | 1,33,270/- |
| 11. | 25251225 | 24.11.25 | Set of MN Steel Pins & Bushes. | 55 Set | 1,09,030/- |
| 12. | 38255015 | 04.12.25 | Flap Door Arrangement complete for BOXNHL Wagon. | 5000 Nos. | 4,10,050/- |
| 13. | 83251883A | 10.11.25 | Computerized Unreserved Ticket size 10.3 Cms x 6.4 Cms. etc. | 100000 Nos. | 1,53,400/- |
| 14. | 65255021 | 25.11.25 | Supply & installation and commission of "CNC SWL for Bondamunda, Haldia & Adityapur" (Prebid meeting on 04.11.25 at 12.00 hrs. at PCMM Meeting Room/SER/GRC/Kol-43). | 03 Nos. | 20,00,000/- |

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. (PR-769)

**UPGRADATION OF SPORT FACILITIES**

**E-Tender Notice No. EL/29/RT26_2025/K/854 dated: 18-10-2025** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. RT26_2025. Name of work:** Upgradation of Sport Facilities at New Jalpaiguri Railway Stadium Complex. **Tender Value:** ₹1,85,74,930.04. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,42,900/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. & **opening at 15.30 hrs.** on **10-11-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DEE/G & Chg, Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
SOLAPUR DIVISION
OHE STRUCTURE WORKS

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2024/ 12R4, Date: 24.10.2025. Name of Work**: Replacement of OHE structure to attend leaning mast located at various locations for improving safety & reliability over Solapur Division.(Re-invitation) **Estimated cost**: Rs. 2,34,68,737.21. **Bid Security**: Rs. 2,67,400/-. **Completion Period**: 12 months. **Validity of offer**: 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website**: 18.11.2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur
DE/Sur-68
रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
SOLAPUR DIVISION
OHE STRUCTURE WORKS

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2024/ 12R4, Date: 24.10.2025. Name of Work**: Replacement of OHE structure to attend leaning mast located at various locations for improving safety & reliability over Solapur Division.(Re-invitation) **Estimated cost**: Rs. 2,34,68,737.21. **Bid Security**: Rs. 2,67,400/-. **Completion Period**: 12 months. **Validity of offer**: 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website**: 18.11.2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur
DE/Sur-68
रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Open Tender Notice No.: 26-SDSTE-ASN-2025-26, dated: 22.10.2025.** e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work: **Name of Work/Location:** Asansol Division– Provision of ELD, Ring Earth at Stn./Cabin/Hut/L.C. Gate **Tender Value**: ₹ 5,85,11,533. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 4,42,600. **Completion period of the work:** 18 months from the date of issue of LOA. **Date & Time of Closing of the tender:** 17.11.2025 at 11.00 hrs. **Website Particulars: http://www.ireps.gov.in.**

(ASN-217/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

**Tender Notice No 104 to 105_DRM_W_HYB_25 dt. 21/10/2025**

PUB/1331

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through **e-procurement** up to 15.00 hours of **14/11/2025**.

**Tender No.:** 104_DRM_W_HYB_25 **Name of the Work :** A) Improvements of Divyangjan Facilities at 25 stations over SC-MUE Section B) Tactile flooring for divyangjan passengers in SC-MUE section at NSG2 to NSG5 category railway to make complete divyangjan friendly stations over HYB division. **Approx Value (₹):** 4,93,16,888 **EMD (₹):** 3,96,600

**Tender No.:** 105_DRM_W_HYB_25 **Name of the Work :** Hyderabad Division: Supply, installation and commissioning and maintenance of track mounted automatic Gauge face lubricators on curves -187 Nos (Electronic type) by agency (RDSO approved firm only) for 5 years. **Approx Value (₹):** 24,24,39,067 **EMD (₹):** 13,62,200

For further details visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

A1677 Sr. DEN/Co-ord/HYB

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL PREVENTIVE AND BREAKDOWN MAINTENANCE**

**E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/G&CHG/LMG/25 of 2025-26; dated: 22-10-2025.** E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1**; **Tender No:** EL/LM/25-26/29; **Name of work:** Comprehensive annual preventive and breakdown maintenance of the out-of warranty 4.5 KW regulated cum emergency battery charger of M/s Signotron (India) Pvt. Ltd make installed in LHB coaches of Lumding division for a period of 3 years. Tender Value: ₹66,09,389.40; Earnest Money: ₹1,32,200.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 13-11-2025 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 13-11-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 13-11-2025 on website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G&CHG, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**PROVISION OF IOT DEVICES FOR MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ELECTRICAL GENERAL ASSETS**

**E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/RT2-18_2025/K/847; dated: 18-10-2025.** E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No:** RT2-18_2025; **Name of work:** Katihar Division- Provision of IOT Devices for Monitoring and Control of Electrical General Assets like Lifts, Escalators, Platform (30/70%) Lighting, Street Light, Sub Station, Pumps etc. over Katihar Division. (Phase-II). Tender Value: ₹5,58,04,724/-; Earnest Money: ₹4,29,000/-. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs.on 10-11-2025 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 10-11-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 10-11-2025 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**PROVISION OF 750 V POWER SUPPLY AT KATIHAR DIVISION**

**E-Tender Notice No. EL/29/RT29_2025/K/857 dated: 18-10-2025** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. RT29_2025. Name of work:** Provision of 750 V Power Supply for Maintenance of HOG Coaches in Washing/Sick Lines of Maintenance Depots/Sheds over Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹3,10,56,803/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,05,300/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. & **opening at 15.30 hrs.** on **10-11-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DEE/G & Chg, Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile


## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**'S.V.R.@50' Achievement, Celebration and Film Festival:** Screening of films 'Bandhana' at 10.30 am, 'Gandaberunda' at 2.30 pm; Dr Rajkumar Bhavan.

**'Appu' App:** Launch by DK Shivakumar, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, Samarth Naghbhushanam, Pramod Prakash; Sheraton Grand; 6.30 pm.

**CULTURAL**

**Bharatanatyam Arangetram:** Performance by Ananya Bhatt; Guests: Nandini K Mehta, Sheshadri Iyengar; Seva Sadan; 6.15 pm.

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 26.0°C |
| Minimum | 21.0°C |
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | -- |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 88% |
| Sunset (Oct 25) | 5:56 pm |
| Sunrise (Oct 26) | 6:11 am |
| Moonrise | 8:17 am |
| Moonset | 7:49 pm |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Called 'Greys Matter', the group comprises people above 60 years, and is an extension of the local community 'Hearts Ever Young'.

## Cooke Town's seniors showcase their creative best

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A senior citizens' group in Cooke Town celebrated 'Talents Day' last week, with music, art, and a dash of fashion.

Called 'Greys Matter', the group comprises people above 60 years and is an extension of the local community 'Hearts Ever Young'.

The event, organised by the members themselves, featured a fashion show, art display, and musical performances.

The fashion show was conceptualised, scripted, and choreographed by Hema Premkumar.

Elaine Menezes sang the classic 'Stupid Cupid' to the strumming of a guitar, while Yvonne Pereira and Belinda Fernandez performed 'There's a Hole in the Bucket'. George Eeraly entertained the crowd with old-school harmonica tunes.

Artist Usha Madanmohan showcased her creativity by decorating diyas, and animal lover Thankam shared her story of caring for stray dogs in the neighbourhood.

## Navigation app now at 14 rly stations of B'luru division

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** 'Namma Nakshe', the South Western Railway's QR-based web application for station navigation, is now available at 14 stations in the Bengaluru division.

First launched at KSR Bengaluru, the facility is now available at SMVT Bengaluru, Bangarapet, Kengeri, KR Puram, Yelahanka, Karmelaram, Hosur, Hindupur, Mandya, Ramanagaram, SSSPN Puttaparthi, Tumakuru and Whitefield.

The application, hosted at www.nammanakshe.com, provides real-time, station-specific navigation assistance through an interactive digital map accessible by scanning a QR code displayed on the station premises.

Passengers can view 2D layouts of the stations. The interface offers image-based guidance and route options.

The application also provides details of tariffs for cloak rooms, parking, battery car services and catering stalls, along with contact information for wheelchair assistance, RPF contacts and Child Helpline, the SWR said.

# Phase 3A: Namma Metro shortens underground stations to save money

### Length reduced from 210m to 170m, cost cut by Rs 2,920 cr to Rs 25,485 cr

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro's Phase 3A will feature underground stations 40 metres shorter than planned after authorities slashed the overall estimated cost by Rs 2,920 crore, according to two senior officials with direct knowledge of the matter.

Also called the Red Line, this 36.59-km corridor will connect Sarjapur in the southeast to Hebbal in the north via the CBD. Its tentative deadline is 2031.

In December 2024, the state cabinet approved Phase 3A's Detailed Project Report (DPR), which had estimated the overall cost at Rs 28,405 crore, or Rs 776.3 crore per km, the most expensive in Namma Metro's history.

However, when the DPR was sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for approval, it found the cost "significantly higher" than benchmark norms.

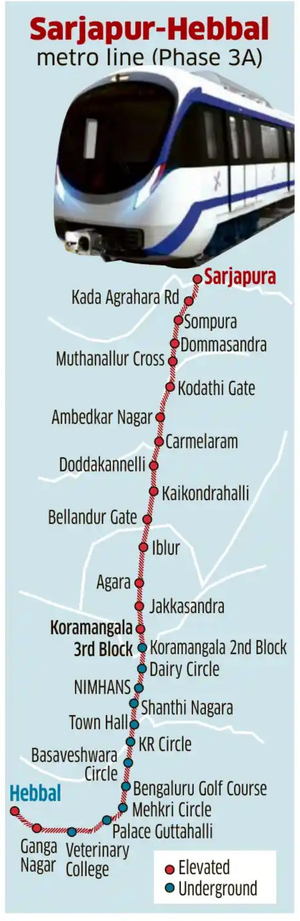
The DPR had based the cost of the underground section on the Pink Line, which is currently under construction.

Following the ministry's directions, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) appointed French multinational Systra to reassess the cost estimates. The company submitted its draft report recently.

A senior BMRCL official privy to the deliberations told *DH* that the cost variation was due to three specific components: per-kilometre tunnelling, length of underground stations, and Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) works.

While tunnelling cost and station length had the major variation, the difference in the cost of E&M works was minor — only a couple of crores of rupees.

For tunnelling costs, the BMRCL's original estimate was Rs 300 crore per kilometre [using the Last Accepted Rate (LAR) for 2024]. However, MoHUA's benchmark was substantially lower at Rs 159 crore.




According to the official, tunnelling through Bengaluru's soil strata is challenging because it changes every 25-30 metres. "There just cannot be a uniform benchmark cost for all cities because of the fundamental difference in soil strata," he pointed out.

The consultant looked at metro systems in Chennai and other cities. Underground stations have been shortened from 210 metres to 170 metres by optimising operational rooms located on both ends of the platform, the official explained.

"Shortening underground stations was challenging because they require controlled environments," the official explained.

"Since the platform length is required to be only 135 metres for a six-coach train, there is not going to be any major change for commuters."

After the optimisation, the tunnelling cost has been reduced to Rs 210 crore per kilometre.

This will lead to reduced costs of land and all other components, the official added.

The official clarified that there will be no change in alignment and other systems.

"The consultant is still discussing the draft report with the ministry, which is also looking at metro systems in other cities. The ministry will now decide whether to approve Phase 3A with the reduced cost or seek further optimisation," the official added.

He declined to specify whether the ministry would approve the DPR by the end of this year.

Although Phase 3A construction will begin only after the ministry's approval, the BMRCL is set to begin preliminary work.

In early October, it floated tenders worth Rs 6.86 crore to carry out geotechnical investigations. Contractors will have 150 days from the award date to complete the work.

Phase 3A will run underground from Koramangala 2nd Block through the CBD. It will feature double-deck viaduct (metro-cum-road) in the overground sections: Sarjapur to Iblur (14 km) and Agara to Koramangala 3rd Block (2.45 km).

Phase 3A's alignment is roughly the same as the proposed tunnel road, which will run from Silk Board Junction to Hebbal.

The first official said the two projects would not cross anywhere until Hebbal, where necessary changes have already been made.

A view of 'Bangaradhama' at Sorab town in Shivamogga district.

## 'Bangara' awards ceremony in Sorab today

**SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS:** The 93rd birth anniversary of former chief minister late S Bangarappa will be held at Bangaradhama in Sorab town in the district today.

Addressing media persons here on Saturday, Bangarappa Vichara Vedike president Venugopal Nayak said the Bangaradhama, the burial place of S Bangarappa and Shakuntala couple, has been attractively designed as per the dream of District In-charge Minister Madhu S Bangarappa.

He said the state government has identified it as a tourist spot. Therefore, this year's celebration of Bangarappa's birth anniversary is special, he added. Nayak said the 'Bangara' awards will be presented to distinguished achievers in various fields, including writer Kalegowda Nagavara, Bengaluru-based charitable institution Gubbi Thotadappa Dharmashala, Chowdike artiste Radhabai Madara and theatre artiste Jewargi Rajanna.

Ministers K H Muniyappa, Santosh Lad, and veteran Congress leader R V Deshpande will present the award.

MLA Belur Gopalakrishna, Joint Managing Director of The Printers Mysore Limited K N Tilak Kumar and Karnataka Nataka Academy President K V Nagaraja Murthy will attend the event. Madhu Bangarappa, who is also the school education and literacy minister, will preside over the event, he said. He said that a symposium on Bangarappa's thoughts and the Alva's Samskruthika Vaibhava will also be held on the same day.

## Poultry farmer shoots son in drunken brawl

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In a drunken brawl, a poultry farm owner allegedly opened fire at his son with a single-barrel muzzle-loading (SBML) gun at Marenahalli village in Doddaballapur Rural district on Thursday night.

The accused, Suresh, 49, was arrested soon after the incident. His son, Harish, 28, a daily wager, sustained severe injuries to his face and head and is said to be in a serious condition.

A senior police officer said that around 10.30 pm, Harish allegedly hit his father with a wooden log and abused him for failing to find him a bride. Enraged, Suresh picked up his gun and shot at Harish.

Harish was shifted to Victoria Hospital. Villagers alerted the police, and Scene of Crime Officers collected evidence from the spot. Police said Suresh had legally owned the firearm since 1986, and the licence is valid until 2028. The weapon was procured for the protection of his farmhouse.

## CM's office seeks report on student being beaten with pipe

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the uproar over a private school teacher allegedly thrashing a student with a PVC pipe, the Chief Minister's Office has sought a report on the incident.

Dr K Vaishnavi, officer on special duty to the CM, has written to the Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy seeking a report on the incident reported at St Mary's Public School in Sunkadakatte in Bengaluru wherein corporal punishment was administered on a student.

The CMO has tasked the department with conducting an inquiry into the incident, and subsequently take necessary action. A compliance report replete with photographs is to be submitted to the CMO.

Meanwhile, the Block Education Officer for Bengaluru North Zone-1 visited the school, and spoke to the teachers, students and representatives of the management, following which a comprehensive report was submitted to the concerned Deputy Director of Public Instruction.

"It is apparent that the principal and teachers of the school administered corporal punishment," read the report, which, however, called for a police investigation into the incident.

A class 5 student was reportedly beaten by the principal and teachers of St Mary's School with a PVC pipe and locked up in a room for being absent for a period of two days. The incident allegedly took place on October 14. The student's parents subsequently filed a complaint against the principal and two teachers at the Kamakshi Palya police station. The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, meanwhile, has registered a suo motu case.

## HC dismisses ED appeal on attachment of properties mortgaged to bank

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** When the properties, prima facie mortgaged to the bank, are not the proceeds of the crime, the attachment of such properties under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act cannot be justified in law, the High Court said in a recent judgement.

A division bench comprising Justices DK Singh and Venkatesh Naik T ruled this while dismissing the appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) regarding the attachment order over seven properties in Mandya, which were also subjected to recovery proceedings by Syndicate Bank (now Canara Bank) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act.

The CBI alleged that the bank was induced to advance loans to borrowers in violation of lending norms and in excess of the manager's delegated powers, resulting in a loss to the bank of Rs 12.63 crore.

The CBI filed the chargesheet against H M Swamy, then Branch Manager, Sadulla Khan of Gandhi Nagar, Mandya, borrower, and others for various IPC offences and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

In 2012, the ED filed a complaint under the PML Act and subsequently issued attachment orders on the seven properties mortgaged to the bank, alleging them as proceeds of crime. In 2017, the Appellate Authority under PMLA quashed the attachment orders.

The division bench noted that the bank was not a party to the proceedings before the adjudicating authority, and no notice was issued to the bank to appear and make its submissions. The bench further noted that the bank had initiated proceedings before the Debt Recovery Tribunal and also under the SARFAESI Act. "By attaching these properties, the Bank would not be able to proceed against these properties to recover its loans and that cannot be the object of the PMLA. Considering the provisions of Section 3 and the mandate of Section 8(8) of the PML Act, we are of the view that the Appellate Tribunal has correctly held that the attachment order was bad in law and has rightly set aside the same," the division bench said.

The court further said, "The Bank is entitled to enforce its security interest by attaching the secured assets. The Bank's right should not be nullified. If the Enforcement Directorate is permitted to proceed with the matter, this conflict puts the Bank in a precarious position."

## DKS wants dedicated institution for town planning in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday instructed officials of the Department of Higher Education and the Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) to take steps towards establishing a dedicated institution for town/urban/regional planning, to be named after Kempegowda, in Bengaluru.

Sources said that the Deputy CM had assured both the VTU and the Department of Higher Education of the state government providing Rs 100 crore for the institution. "The institute will function out of a temporary campus for now, and the Deputy CM has told us that it will be shifted to a permanent campus later," said a source.

Government officials' lack of knowledge about urban and town planning reportedly prompted the Deputy CM to contemplate setting up such an institution. The state government is even mulling over introducing amendments to the 'Cadre and Recruitment' rules for engineers. "The Deputy CM said that the government is in need of 2,000 engineers for planning across departments," the source added.

Although Shivakumar was told that 'Town Planning' was part of the syllabus for architecture and civil engineering courses, the Deputy CM was insistent on a separate institution in Kempegowda's name.

VTU authorities told the Deputy CM that they would discuss the possibility of setting up such an institution with the All India Council for Technical Education, besides seeking permission from the Institute of Town Planners of India, which is a prerequisite for offering programmes in town planning.

Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar, and other officials from his department were in attendance at the meeting.

# KSOU withdraws admissions to healthcare, allied courses

### Move follows UGC communication; offers to refund fees

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), which aimed to increase enrollment during the July 2025 cycle, has been forced to withdraw admissions made to healthcare and allied programmes during the same cycle.

Following the instructions from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the KSOU has issued a public notice informing those admitted to courses, like MSc in Psychology, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Food and Nutrition Science, and Biochemistry. Some students have opted for these subjects as one of the optional subjects in the BSc courses will be cancelled.

As per the information, at least 300 students have taken admission for these courses and have even paid Rs 30,000 towards the course fees. However, following a communication from the UGC about the decision to withdraw permission to offer such courses through distance/online mode, as the subjects fall under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Profession (NCAHP) Act 2021, the university was forced to withdraw the admissions made for those courses.

Following the communication from the UGC, the KSOU has issued a public notice informing students who have opted for the above courses to get a refund or to shift to any other course with the same fee structure.

Speaking to *DH*, KSOU vice-chancellor Sharanappa Halse said, "By the time UGC issues notification, we have completed the admissions. As the decision of the UGC applies to the entire country, we have asked students about the cancellation of the admissions and also about providing refunds. If they wish to shift to any other course of the same fee structure, they are free to opt."

The UGC's communication reads, "No higher education institution shall be permitted to offer healthcare and allied programmes covered in NCAHP Act 2021, including Psychology as specialisation under distance/online mode, from the academic session July-August 2025 and onward. For higher education institutions already granted recognition to offer such programmes for the upcoming academic sessions shall be withdrawn."

According to sources, UGC has taken the decision in its 592nd meeting following complaints.

(Govt of Karnataka)
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM**

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS-2/2025-26/1832 Date : 23-10-2025

**-:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::-**

1) Details of Works : 1. Total no of works 04 in **Sedam** Taluka Indent No's are : 27938 (SC), 27932, 28229 & 28230, 2. Total no of works 02 in **Chittapur** Taluka Indent No's are : 22794 & 21948/CALL-2, 3.Total no of works 05 in **Chincholi** Taluka Indent No's are : 28199, 28198, 28197 (Cat-II(A)), 28196 & 28082 (S.C)., 2) Head of Account: **Under KKRDB, 2059, SDMF, PMAGY & 8443 For the year 2024-25 & 2025-26,** 3) Amount Put to Tender : **Lowest Estimate Cost : Rs. 2.00 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost Rs. 530.00 Lakhs**, 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-IV contractor & Above, 5) Pre Bid Meeting: **03-11-2025 – 11.00 Hrs**, 6) Date & time for Tender Queries of tenders: **04-11-2025 - 17:30:00 Hrs**, 7) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 8) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **05-11-2025 - 16:00:00 Hrs**, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **06-11-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 10) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid: **07-11-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 13) If any changes for Cancelation : Any Changes and cancelations are done in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Note: 1) The undersigned has to power to postponement/rejecting the tenders, 2) If any changes are there in upcoming days These Tenders are not published in tender bulletin it should be read in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal

DIPR/Kalaburagi/645/KSMC&A/2025-26

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam**

**Karnataka Forest Department**
**Office of the Asst Conservator of forests, Social forestry Sub Division**
**Gangavathi (Koppal) Email: dcfsfkpl1@gmail.com**

**No: ACFSF/GVT/BGT/BUILDING-WORK/2025-26/307** **Date: 24-10-2025**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

E-tenders are invited from eligible Class-I & II contractors registered/renewed in Koppal for the Construction of building works under Account Head 2406-00-101-0-28 Infrastructure Development (Building) in Koppal Social Forest Division for the year 2025-26. Registered civil contractors can participate in the tender for a total of 02 works. The minimum tender amount is Rs.50.00 lakhs and the maximum tender amount is Rs.50.00 lakhs. For more information, please contact the website mentioned above online. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

**First Time Tender**

1.LAST DATE & TIME FOR TENDER QUERIES/ CLARFICATIONS **29-10-2025** 16:00 2.LAST DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS **02-11-2025** 16:00 3.DATE & TIME FOR OPENING OF TECHNICAL TENDER ONLINE IN KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL: **03-11-2025** 16:15 4.DATE & TIME FOR OPENING OF FINANCIAL TENDERS **04-11-2025** 16:30

**Second Time Tender (If no successful bids are received on first time)**

1.LAST DATE & TIME FOR TENDER QUERIES/ CLARFICATIONS **13-11-2025** 16:00 2.LAST DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS **18-11-2025** 16.00 3.DATE & TIME FOR OPENING OF TECHNICAL TENDER ONLINE IN KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL: **19-11-2025** 16.15 4.DATE & TIME FOR OPENING OF FINANCIAL TENDERS **20-11-2025** 16.30

Tenderers who wish to participate in the tender may submit bids through the e-procurement portal and contact the office during office hours for further details.

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forest Sub-Division, Gangavati (Koppal)**

**DIPR/Koppal/406/KSMCA/2025-26**

**Department of Health & Family Welfare**
**KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY**
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road,
Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

**No: KSAPS/BASC/GEN/2/2025-BS** **Date: 17.10.2025**

**Invitation for Tenders**
**Through e-Procurement**

Tenders (Two cover) are invited for **Printing & Supply ICTC registers, formats & cards** under E-Procurement System. For more details are available at website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of tender on **14-11-2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Sd/-**
**Project Director**
**Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru.**

DIPR/CP/3410/MAA/2025-26

**Government of Karnataka**
**(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)**
**KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
III Floor, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavana,
Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22 / 23 / 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbng@nic.in Website: https://www.krrda.in

**No: KRRDA/TECH/11/208/TND NOT-4/2025-26/1652** **Date: 24-10-2025**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION - 4**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, KRRDA invites Item Rate Tenders through KPP Portal for the following Indent works.

1) **Under PM-JANMAN Scheme of Mysore District.**
   i) **Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 206/ Call-3 (APT: 79.70 Lakhs) EMD 2% of APT.**
   ii) **Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 207/ Call-3 (APT: 82.54 Lakhs) EMD 2% of APT**
2) **Under CM-Special Grant 5054 Scheme of Bellary District.**
   i) **Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 220/ Call-2 (APT: 281.26 Lakhs) EMD 1.5% of APT.**
   ii. **Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 221/ Call-3 (APT: 156.64 Lakhs) EMD 1.5% of APT.**
   iii. **Indent No: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 222/ Call-2 (APT: 212.97 Lakhs) EMD 1.5% of APT**

**Calendar of tendering events are as follows:**

**1)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **04-11-2025, Tuesday at 11.00 AM. 2)** Last Date for Online Submission of Bids: **07-11-2025, Friday upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **10-11-2025, Monday after 5.30 PM onwards. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Completion of Technical Bid Evaluation.**

As per PWD registration, eligible contractors may participate in the tender. For any information, the **Executive Engineer, KRRDA** may be contacted. Further tender details can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Tendering Officer**
**KRRDA, Bengaluru.**

DIPR/CP/3417/Adverto/2025-26

## Access to emergency exit remains a major problem

**Major bus mishaps**

- **2013:** A bus in Mahabubnagar, Telangana, caught fire after hitting a culvert, resulting in 45 fatalities.
- **2017:** A bus in Himachal Pradesh fell into a 500-foot gorge due to driver error and overcrowding, causing 44 deaths.
- **2018:** A private bus plunged into a canal in Mandya, killing 30 passengers, mostly schoolkids.
- **2022:** A sleeper bus caught fire on a highway in Nashik, Maharashtra, killing 13 people from a short circuit in the engine.
- **2023:** Two back-to-back crashes in Buldhana and Doda resulted in over 30 fatalities, caused by overspeeding and driver fatigue.
- **2024:** In Almora, Uttarakhand, a bus fell into a gorge due to brake failure, resulting in 15 deaths.
- **2025:** In Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, a Bengaluru-bound Kaveri Travels sleeper bus caught fire after hitting a motorcycle, killing 19 passengers.

# Safety concerns in sleeper buses dormant

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The bus fire tragedy in Kurnool, which claimed the lives of about 20 people on Friday, has put the spotlight onto the safety concerns in sleeper buses. Transport department officials and industry insiders flag issues on location of emergency exits and illegal modification of sleeper coaches.

The private bus, operated by V Kaveri Travels, had about 40 passengers on board when it went up in flames after colliding with a motorcycle coming in the opposite direction. As per preliminary reports, only about half the passengers managed to escape from the bus.

Emergency exits remain a major problem in sleeper buses, said an industry insider. "When there is an emergency and you are in a seater bus, you can move away immediately. That is not the case with sleeper buses. There are many obstacles, including the railings and curtains, which come in the way when trying to approach the emergency exit. The gallery space is also limited. This is especially dangerous when one has just woken up from sleep and is trying to find a way," he said, adding that private operators are more likely to flout safety regulations, often illegally modifying seater buses into sleeper coaches.

"Early on, buses by Volvo and a few others had an issue with the diesel tank. It used to be fixed near the bottom half, which had caused some accidents in the past. The company has since resolved the issue by moving the fuel tank near the boot. Since then, such incidents have reduced," he added.

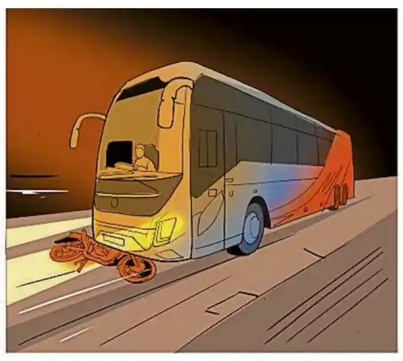
The private bus involved in the accident, a 42-seater Scania bus, was 7 years and 2 months old, and registered under the Rayagada RTO in Odisha, with all valid documentation. However, it had 16 unpaid traffic violations in Hyderabad, for overspeeding, driving on the wrong side, and unauthorised parking, among other things.

"The bus was registered under the All India Tourism Permit (AITP), under which it is allowed to operate for 12 years. This shows that the bus wasn't a faulty old bus. After the 8-year period, all vehicles are required to renew their fitness certificates annually, rather than every two years. We are very strict about this," a senior transport department official told *DH*.

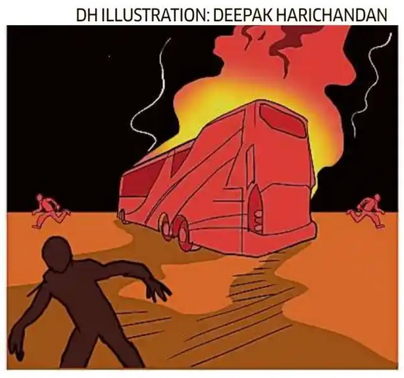
In an attempt to save on taxes, private operators often get their vehicles registered in states charging low taxes, such as Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Nagaland, said another transport department official. "We're trying to curb this by cracking down on AITP buses, which operate solely in and around Karnataka but are registered in different states. If the buses are registered here, we can keep a track on them," he said.

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

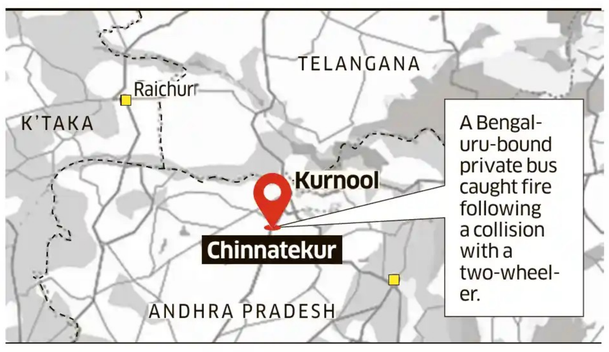
**The speeding Bengaluru-bound** private bus from Hyderabad crashes into a bike from behind near Chinnatekur village in Kurnool district at 3.30 am on Friday.



**The biker Siva Sankar,** a marble worker from Thandrapadu village in Kurnool district, died on spot but the bike was dragged under the bus.



**The sparks from the ruptured** fuel tank of the bike triggered a fire and the combustible materials inside the bus aggravated the fire, resulting in 19 fatalities.




### Negligence evident, high-level probe sought: DKS

**Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that a high-level investigation into the bus tragedy has been sought. Highlighting that negligence is evident in the case, he added, "An investigation should be conducted to find out the cause of the accident. This is not a minor incident. We should ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again."**

**Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy also reiterated that safety was the top priority of the state government. "Our transport department is very strict when it comes to safety norms. I have always been strict about the need for proper functioning of emergency exits in all buses, ever since the 2013 bus fire tragedy when I was the transport minister," he said.**

> Our transport department is very strict when it comes to safety norms. I have always been strict about the need for proper functioning of emergency exits in all buses, ever since the 2013 bus fire tragedy when I was the transport minister.
>
> **RAMALINGA REDDY,** Transport minister

> Around 2.30 am, the bus stopped briefly. Suddenly, I saw flames but did not realise what it was until others started shouting. The doors were locked, and the drivers were missing. We broke the emergency window and jumped out.
>
> **JAYANT KUSHWAHA,** Survivor

**19** people died (adults 17 & minors 2) | **27** passengers managed to escape

- AP 6; Telangana 6; Bihar 1; Odisha 1; TN 2; Karnataka 2; and one dead body is still not identified
- The bodies are burnt beyond recognition, making identification extremely challenging
- AP govt announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakhs for the families of the deceased from Andhra Pradesh and Rs 2 lakhs for injured

### Regulations after accidents

- **Mahabubnagar bus tragedy sparks review (2013):** Govt. examined structural safety; urged relocation of fuel tanks and better exits.
- **AIS-052 Bus Body Code enforced (2014-15):** All buses to include multiple exits, safety glass hammers, flame-retardant interiors, extinguisher & signage.
- **AC/Sleeper Bus range upgraded (2017):** Introduced emergency door, breakable glass exits, automatic fire suppression & smoke sensors.
- **State rule for dual emergency exits (2019- Karnataka):** Mandatory two additional emergency doors on all AC/sleeper coaches.
- **Renewed audits proposed (2025):** After Kurnool bus fire, transport ministries of Karnataka & AP push for real-time GPS & fire-alert system integration.

### Biker killed in Kurnool bus fire was a marble worker, left home last night

**KURNOOL, DHNS: The young man whose motorcycle was involved in the tragic Kurnool bus inferno has been identified as Buttala Siva Sankar, 21, a marble worker from B Thandrapadu village in Kurnool district.**

**Siva Sankar, who earned his living cutting marble slabs and laying flooring, was on his way to Dhone, a nearby town, to report for work by 7:30 am on Friday. Family members said he had left home the previous night, likely after spending some time with friends, intending to reach Dhone early in the morning despite rain in the area.**

**Siva Sankar had earlier worked as a motorcycle mechanic before shifting to marble labour a year ago in search of a steadier income. He was also good at driving bikes. "He was a bike mechanic, but the earnings weren't enough to sustain our family. So he started working with marble contractors," said his elder brother Sri Hari, speaking to DH at the Kurnool General Hospital mortuary.**

**The family learned of his death only after a neighbour showed them a WhatsApp message with a photo from the accident site around 6:30 am.**

## Bengaluru IT body urges probe

**BENGALURU, PTI:** The Greater Bengaluru IT Companies and Industries Association (GBITCIA) urged government agencies and stakeholders to conduct a thorough investigation into the bus accident in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, that left 20 people dead.

The association called for urgent action by transport authorities and service providers to ensure the highest safety standards for all intercity commuters, particularly those connected to the technology sector.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families during this difficult time," GBITCIA said in a statement.

Citing initial information, the association said 36 of the passengers were connected to the IT corridor, highlighting the tragedy's profound impact on the technology ecosystem.

"It is deeply distressing to learn that two software engineers are among those who have lost their lives," it added.

GBITCIA said, "We remain committed to providing all possible assistance to the affected families and supporting coordination between our member companies, local administration, and emergency services."

## Flouting of norms, hefty fare worry passengers

**AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Most people resort to travelling by private buses when there is unavailability of government buses, expensive flight tickets and completely filled train coaches.

But safety on these buses has always been a concern and there are a few issues that passengers flag when it comes to travelling by private buses. Unlike in flights, there are no guidelines issued to the passengers regarding their actions during emergencies. The stops that the buses choose to make during long hauls are unsafe and the rash driving of drivers have continued to risk lives, passengers opined. Additionally, the private buses charge passengers exorbitantly during weekends and festivals as the density of passengers is high.

When this *DH* reporter randomly contacted different private bus operators, seeking tickets to different states for two different days, one for a long weekend and other on a weekday. The travels quoted Rs 1,100 to Kannur from Bengaluru on a regular day and for a long weekend quoted Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,500. Tickets to Hyderabad on a regular day was between Rs 900 to Rs 1,200 whereas on special days went up to Rs 5,000.

Ranjini A, a software engineer from Chennai working in Bengaluru, "Private bus is not our first choice but we do not get leave until the last minute, so we do not have a choice and they are exploiting us," she said.

A regular passenger from Bengaluru to Kerala, Megha Mukundan, said that the private bus she was travelling in broke down on Salem highway and the passengers were asked to make their own arrangements to get back home. "Early in the morning we were stranded on a highway after paying more than Rs 2,000 for a ticket and we did not get a full refund and instead had to spend on travel to reach home."

Serene, another regular passenger, said, "We pay Rs 4,000 per ticket at peak season and there are no arrangements for it and the pit stops are so bad, I have stopped getting down at those stops."

## 19 burnt alive as blaze guts B'luru-bound bus

**Accident, from Page 1**

A senior police official told *DH* that the bus dragged the motorcycle for nearly 200 metres, and friction near the fuel tank caused sparks that triggered the massive blaze. "We suspect the driver, to avoid a hit-and-run case, continued driving after hitting the bike. He failed to notice that he was dragging it.

Another passerby noticed sparks and alerted the driver, but it was too late, the official said. The flames spread rapidly, reducing the bus to ashes and leaving several bodies charred beyond recognition. The driver reportedly tried to douse the fire with onboard extinguishers but fled after realising the severity of the blaze.

Forensic experts have begun collecting DNA samples to identify the deceased. The bus, operated by private company V Kaveri Travels, was carrying 44 passengers and two drivers from Hyderabad to Bengaluru. Most of the passengers were returning to Bengaluru after the Deepavali holidays in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha asserted that strict action would be taken against those responsible. Cases have already been registered under several sections of law.

She clarified that the bus had a valid all-India permit and fitness certificate. Anitha also announced that a high-level committee comprising officials from the police, transport, and revenue departments would investigate the incident. "There were 39 adults, four children, and two unidentified persons on board. Twenty-three adults, two children, and two drivers survived. Among them, nine are currently under medical care. Including children and adults and 19 people have died. Of the victims, six were from Andhra Pradesh, six from Telangana, one from Odisha, one from Bihar, two from Tamil Nadu, and two from Karnataka. One body remains unidentified," she said.

The minister announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of deceased victims from Andhra Pradesh and Rs 2 lakh each for the injured. She added that 16 special teams were conducting a comprehensive probe from all angles.

Kurnool SP Vikrant Patil said an investigation was underway to determine the exact cause of the accident. One of the drivers was still absconding. The Andhra Pradesh Transport Department officials also assured a thorough probe.

## Accident survivors share harrowing tales of escape

**SHRADDHA A K & ASHWIN B M**
BENGALURU, DHNS

From the 40-passenger bus, only a handful of survivors emerged to share their harrowing experiences. *DH* reached out to some of the passengers on board. Only eight of them could be reached for comments.

Mohammed Khizer, a 51-year-old hotelier from Bengaluru was the lucky one to escape. He was returning home after a work trip. Khizer recounted the horrifying moments when he was jolted awake by the screams of fellow passengers. Alongside a few others, he frantically searched for a fire exit but found none. In a desperate bid, they smashed a window and jumped onto the road. Despite sustaining significant burns on his left side and internal injuries to his shoulder and knee, Khizer managed to help two more passengers in their escape, even ending up underneath two others who fell onto him during the chaos. His wife, Salma, revealed that the traumatic experience had left him in shock.

Shiva, an IT professional from Hyderabad, was also on the bus and shared a similar experience with *DH* of waking to screams and escaping through a broken window. Though he injured his hand, he was fortunate compared to the others. Along with him, Gloria Elsa Sam, a corporate employee from Bengaluru, also successfully escaped and quickly boarded another bus to continue her journey.

However, the fire claimed the lives of Philomena Baby, 64, and her son Kishore Kumar, 41, who were returning to Bengaluru after visiting relatives in Hyderabad. The mother is a homemaker, and her son is a former HAL employee.

Another victim, 18-year-old Amrit Kimar from Nasik, was travelling to Bengaluru for work as a carpenter. His friend Panday conveyed the devastating news, noting that Amrit's father and elder brother were en route from Nasik, while an uncle in Bengaluru was preparing to identify the body.

An official from the Transport Department confirmed to *DH* that the body of Argha Bandhopadhay, a resident of Jigani has been found.

**A large number of people gather even as vehicles are stranded at the accident spot near Kurnool on Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway.** PTI PHOTO

## Survivor saves family, but loses close friend

**Survivor, from Page 1**

The family had travelled to Hyderabad to celebrate Deepavali with a friend's family and boarded the ill-fated bus on Thursday night to return home.

Ramesh's close friend and co-traveller, Nelakurthi Ramesh, who survived with minor burns, recounted the terrifying moments. "It all happened within five minutes. Those sleeping in the lower berths could not react. I could hear screams in the dark as thick smoke filled the bus and visibility vanished. The driver did not warn us," he told *DH* from his hospital bed at the Kurnool Government General Hospital.

As the flames spread, Nelakurthi shattered a side window, pulling his wife and children to safety. "I woke up [Golla] Ramesh and urged him to jump, but it was too late. The bus was already ablaze. My family survived, but my best friend and his family did not. All I can do now is collect their bodies and take them home for the last rites," he said, fighting back tears.

Relatives described the Golla family's loss as a tragedy beyond measure. "Ramesh had married his elder sister's daughter. Her only son had died by suicide a few years ago. Now, she is left with no one," distant relative, Umesh, at the hospital, told *DH*.

**Police investigate the spot after a Bengaluru-bound private bus caught fire following a collision with a two-wheeler, near Chinnatekur in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.** PTI

Both Ramesh families hailed from poor backgrounds in Nellore district and had moved to Bengaluru after finishing their secondary school exams. Though they belonged to the same district they came to know each other only after they moved to Bengaluru for a living around 20 years ago. "I met [Golla] at work, we bonded as we were from the same area. We both married around the same time, worked as sales representatives, and often visited our families together in Nellore and Hyderabad. We both rose in our profession of marketing. Now, I cant even imagine that he is no more," Ramesh told *DH* holding back his tears.

Another survivor, Jayant Kushwaha said, "Around 2.30 am, the bus stopped briefly. Suddenly, I saw flames but did not realise what it was until others started shouting. The doors were locked, and the drivers were missing. We broke the emergency window and jumped out."

## Modi: NDA under Nitish will...

**NDA, from Page 1**

Modi asked the gathering to switch on the torch of their mobile. "When there is so much light, is there any need for a lantern?" said Modi, in an oblique reference to RJD, whose election symbol is lantern.

Rallying point

Last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had evaded a direct response on the issue of who will be the Chief Minister if the NDA was voted to power. "There are five parties in the NDA. All the newly elected MLAs will sit together and choose their CM," was Shah's cryptic reply.

The Mahagatbandhan pounced on this confusion. When senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot declared Tejashwi Yadav as the Mahagatbandhan's CM face, the former Rajasthan Chief Minister challenged Shah, saying: "We have declared our CM candidate. Now the NDA too should declare who their CM face is."

## 6 new butterfly species found in Arunachal

**Butterfly, from Page 1**

The butterflies were photographed and identified in the Simung Community Forest in June-July in 2024.

The authors included Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, Rajkamal Goswami, Seena Narayanan Karimbumkara, and Agur Litin. The fieldwork was carried out as part of ATREE's Siang Valley Biodiversity Conservation Programme.

The expedition was led by local conservationist from the Litin clan, Agur Litin, who is also one of the co-authors of the paper. The local Adi and other indigenous communities play a crucial role in conservation through traditional land stewardship practices. But the butterfly species in the Siang valley has remained poorly studied, said the report.

"The documentation of six previously unrecorded species within a short one-month survey underscores the striking lack of Lepidopteran surveys and conservation attention in the Indian Eastern Himalayas," the study said.

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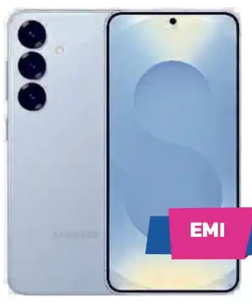
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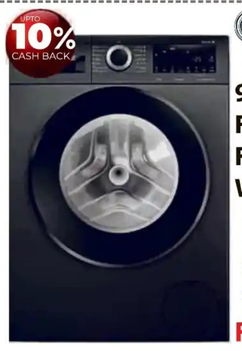

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# SC takes exception to MP High Court condoning 4-year delay in appeal

**Terms the decision 'unfortunate' reflecting 'non-application of mind'**

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has taken exception to the Madhya Pradesh High Court's order condoning a delay of over four years in considering an appeal, terming the decision as unfortunate and reflecting an absolute non-application of mind.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Vishwanathan issued notice to the Madhya Pradesh government on a special leave petition filed by Shankargir, represented by advocate Dushyant Parashar.

After hearing the counsel, the court on October 10, 2025, noted that the High Court had condoned a delay of four years and nine months in preferring a first appeal at the instance of the State of Madhya Pradesh.

"We are thoroughly disappointed with the manner in which the impugned order has been passed by the High Court. It reflects absolute non-application of mind," the bench observed.

The court issued notice returnable on November 17, 2025.

As per case details, the petitioner filed a suit for declaration and permanent injunction over an agricultural land measuring 3.870 hectares at Village Sejawata, Tehsil and District Ratlam, on the ground that he had purchased the land in an auction and it was in his possession.

In a revenue case, the Tehsildar, by an order dated July 12, 2010, held that the land belonged to Math Nav Durga Math Mathkala and Nav Durga Temple.

Aggrieved, the petitioner instituted a suit, and the District Judge, Ratlam, by a judgement dated November 25, 2019, declared him the owner and in possession of the agricultural land. The order of the Tehsildar was declared null and void.

The petitioner said the state preferred the first appeal after four years and nine months of the District Judge's judgement.

His plea contended that the High Court accepted the appeal based merely on an affidavit filed by the state, without any explanation for the delay, describing it as an eyewash and a derogation of the strict legal principles laid down in several judgments, including Shivamma Dead through LRs vs Karnataka Housing Board (2025), UOI vs Jahangir Byramji Jee Jeebhay (dead) through LRs (2024) INSC 2629, Majji Sannemma vs Reddy Sridevi, and Baswaraj vs Special Land Acquisition Officer (2013).

Challenging the High Court's order of September 1, 2025, the petitioner claimed the court was not justified in condoning a delay of 1,612 days (i.e. four years and nine months), ignoring the state machinery's callous and lackadaisical attitude, and treating it as an act of generosity under the guise of rendering substantial justice, to the prejudice of the opposite party when the delays were not satisfactorily explained.

Acres of paddy at Basapur village in Koppal taluk have been destroyed due to a prolonged wet weather. The district experienced heavy showers in the last three to four days.

# Heavy rains flatten acres of paddy in Tungabhadra basin

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Intermittent rains in the last three days have dented farmers' hopes of making up for kharif losses as the showers, coupled with strong winds, has flattened paddy cultivated on thousands of acres in Kalyana Karnataka, coastal districts and Malnad.

The coffee and pepper growers in Kodagu, Hassan and Chikkamagaluru districts are staring at losses due to a prolonged wet spell.

Heavy showers in the last two days have destroyed acres of paddy cultivated in the Tungabhadra command area in Koppal and Vijayanagara districts. Laxman Rajarampet, a farmer from Basapur in Koppal taluk who'd lost paddy cultivated on eight acres, made a suicide bid by consuming pesticide. Alert locals snatched the pesticide bottle from him and rushed him to a PHC nearby.

Paddy harvesting has been affected badly due to rain and gusty winds in coastal areas and Malnad.

Prolonged rainy season has hit the coffee growers hard. Heavy rain has damaged coffee beans by causing ripe berries to fall off the plants. Also, the inclement weather has increased the risk of fungal diseases and mold. The story of pepper growers is no different. The black pepper crop is being affected by Foot Rot (Beru Kole) disease and if the rain continues for some more time, the pepper crop will be destroyed, says Dr S J Ankegowda of Indian Institute of Spices Research's Appangala regional centre.

Meanwhile, a 63-year-old woman died when a portion of her house wall collapsed on her at Mathigod in Arkalgud taluk of Hassan district. Javaramma died on the spot while her son escaped unhurt. Many parts of Hassan have been receiving intermittent rain in the last three days. Lake breach at Bagur village in Channarayapatna taluk cut-off the road link to several villages including Kalasind and Vaddarahalli.

Inflow into Hemavathi dam in Gorur has increased following sharp showers in its catchment areas in Hassan and Chikkamagaluru districts. As much as 12,000 cusecs of water is being released downstream from Hemavathi dam.

Many parts of north Karnataka have also been witnessing moderate to heavy rains for the past three days.

# MoEF panel to assess Sharavathy pumped storage project on Oct 27

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government's proposal for a 2,000 MW power project in the middle of the Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary is set to be taken up for assessment by an expert committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during its meeting scheduled on October 27.

During the first round of assessment of the project in July this year, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) had asked the state government to respond to the suggestions made by the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) on reducing the number of trees proposed to be felled for the project as well as the observations made by the deputy inspector general of forests, MoEF&CC regional office. Meanwhile, the NBWL standing committee has asked a committee comprising its two independent members to visit the project site and submit a report.

The project has faced vociferous opposition from the residents in the area during the public hearings held last month in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada. Apart from over 5,000 people submitting written objections, 49,770 people have signed an online petition against the project.

Over the last few months, activists have slowly gained support of the political establishment with Fisheries Minister Mankal Vaidya saying that he has been "opposing it from day one."

## ◆ WEATHER ◆

**Overview:** Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and most places over Coastal Karnataka
**Forecast Oct 25:** Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

| INTERIOR NORTH | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belagavi | 26 | 19.2 | 25.7 |
| Bidar | 30.2 | 21 | 10.2 |
| Vijayapura | 28.5 | 21 | 00 |
| Dharwad | 26.4 | 19.8 | 49.8 |
| Haveri | 26 | 20.8 | 3.4 |
| Kalaburagi | 33.2 | 22.6 | 3.9 |
| Raichur | 29.6 | 21 | 4.2 |
| **COASTAL** | | | |
| Honnavar | 30.4 | 22.9 | 5.4 |
| Karwar | 30.7 | 23.9 | 2.1 |
| Shirali | NA | NA | NA |
| Mangaluru | 29.1 | 23 | 22.5 |

| INTERIOR SOUTH | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agumbe | 27.2 | 21.2 | 02 |
| Bengaluru | 27.7 | 20.2 | 05 |
| Ballari | NA | NA | NA |
| Chamarajanagar | NA | NA | NA |
| Chikkamagaluru | NA | NA | NA |
| Chitradurga | 29.5 | 20.8 | 19 |
| Davangere | 27 | 20 | 00 |
| Hassan | 32.4 | NA | 0.5 |
| Mysuru | 27 | 19 | 01 |
| Madikeri | NA | NA | NA |
| Kolar | 28.8 | 19.4 | 5.4 |
| **OTHER STATIONS** | | | |
| New Delhi | 32.2 | 17 | 00 |
| Kolkata | 34.6 | 25 | 00 |
| Mumbai | 36 | 27 | 00 |
| Chennai | 32.6 | 23.5 | 27 |
| Pune | 32.3 | 21.4 | 18 |
| Hyderabad | 28.6 | 22.7 | 01 |
| Th'puram | 30.8 | 23 | 66 |

# Rlys to lease retail space for premium brands at major stations

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The South Western Railway (SWR) said it would lease retail space for single-brand brands at all major train stations in the Bengaluru division.

The move is aimed at enhancing passenger amenities and boosting non-fare revenue, and follows the Railway Board's new policy to award contracts by allotting unused vacant space for premium stalls through transparent e-auction, the SWR said. These outlets — to be set up in prime locations within station premises — may include high-end brands offering apparel, footwear travel accessories and other lifestyle products, it added.

For further information and details on participation, contact the office of the Divisional Commercial Manager, SWR, Bengaluru Division.


**HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA**
Bengaluru-560001
No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 Date: 22.09.2025
**CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT BRIEF NOTIFICATION**
The Intimation No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 dated 22.09.2025 notifying the list of candidates who are eligible for Preliminary Examination to the post of Civil Judges scheduled on 11.10.2025 is published in the official web site of High Court of Karnataka i.e., **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
REGISTRAR GENERAL AND SECRETARY, CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE. HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.
DIPR/CP/3393/Zen/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Health and Family Welfare Services
**Office of The Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi**
ಸಂ/ಸಾಆಭ/ಟೆರಾಟೆಂ/01/2025-26 Date: 18.10.2025
**Tender Notice**
Tender applications are invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from eligible Firms regarding supply of Medicines and Chemicals to Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi for the year 2025-26 and 2026-27. For Tender Forms, E.M.D., regarding Tender Terms and Conditions and further information can be viewed in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Approx. amount of Tender: Rs. 80.00 lakhs (Rupees eighty lakhs only).
**Sd/-Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi.**
DIPR/smg/No.103/10/ksmca/25-26/1129

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Nirvachana Nilaya, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
**Preparation of Electoral Rolls for Teachers' Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council**
**Notice under rule 31(4)of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**
In pursuance of rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules. 1960, each of the Electoral Registration Officers of **1) Bangalore Teachers' Constituency 2) Karnataka North-East Teachers' Constituency,** vide his notice dated **30th September 2025,** called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant Teachers' constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at, his office on or before **06th November 2025** (i.e. the last date of receipt of applications) application in Form19 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules,1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the editions dated 30th September 2025 of **(1) The Times of India 2) The Hindu, 3) Vijaya Karnataka, (4) Prajavani Newspapers.**
All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in **Form 19 on or before 6th Novermber 2025** (i.e, the last date of receipt of applications), if not already done.
The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceo. karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/JA/3403/2025-26

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Nirvachana Nilaya, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
**Preparation of Electoral Rolls for Graduates' Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council**
**Notice under rule 31(4)of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**
In pursuance of rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules. 1960, each of the Electoral Registration Officers of **1) Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency and 2) Karnataka South East Graduates' Constituency,** vide his notice dated 30th September 2025, called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant Graduates' Constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at, his office on or before **06th November 2025** *(i.e. the last date of receipt of applications)* application in Form18 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules,1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the editions dated **30th September 2025** of **(1) The Times of India 2) The Hindu, 3) Vijaya Karnataka (4) Prajavani** Newspapers.
All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in **Form 18 on or before 6th Novermber 2025** *(i.e, the last date of receipt of applications),* if not already done.
The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceo. karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/JA/3402/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
**KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI**
KMCRI/SUP(5)/Urology/Tender-01/241/2025-26 Dated 24-10-2025
**ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)**
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು **ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ Urology ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Ligasure with Bipolar TUR Generator & Resectoscope** ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://ww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

**DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION**
Office of The Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Kandaya Bhavan, 8th Floor, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009 Tel: 080-22220436, e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in
No.: Comp/53/2025-26 Date: 18.10.2025
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
Tenders are invited by the Department of Stamps and Registration for **Selection of an agency to Supply of Digital Signature Certificates Class-III, Encryption Certificates and Tokens.** The tenders forms, terms and conditions may be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The last date for submitting completed tender form is **17.11.2025 till 5.00 PM.** For further details please contact **Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Computers) & Project Director Kaveri (e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in)**
Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/3401/2025-26

**KARNATAKA MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No-39-821, Subedar Chatram Road, Opposite to Sheshadripuram Police Station, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020.
No.K.M.D.C/C.B.T/2025-26 Dated: 18.10.2025
**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**
E-tenders are invited from eligible/interested organizations to select training institutions for providing training under the Skill Development Program under the Community Based Training Scheme to the youth of the minorities community in the year 2025-26 by the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation. The tender details are as follows.
**(1)** Tender No: KMDCL/2025-26/SE0018 Program/ Service Name: **Skill Development Training in A.** Phlebotomist with 1 month internship, **B.** Bridal, Fashion and Portfolio Makeup Artist, **C.** Consultant (Chartered Tax Practitioner), **D.** Graphic Designer. Estimated amount (₹. in lakhs): 156.00, Last date for submission of tender: 10.11.2025 at 5.30 p.m.
For details, please visit the website address **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in/** for details, contact number: 080-22860999, for further information, contact the General Manager, Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation (KMDC), Bangalore.
Sd/- General Manager and Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/RO3404/AAPL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
**U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE**
**CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP**
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560017
Phone : 080 2508-4156 / 4318 / 4185
**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**
1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

| Description | Details |
|---|---|
| Name of work | Filtration and testing of transformer oil at URSC Campus, ISITE campuses, Devanahalli Guest house and DOS/ISRO Housing Colonies, Bengaluru |
| E-Tender Notice | URSC/C&MG/E/M/12/2025-26 Dt. 15/10/2025 |
| Estimated cost put to Tender | ₹ 25.91 Lakhs |
| Tender Document Details | E-Tender |
| Period of completion in months | Twenty Four (24) Months |
| Period during which the tender document can be downloaded. | From: 18:10 Hrs on 17/10/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 30/10/2025 |
| Bid clarification | From: 19:00 Hrs on 17/10/2025 To:14:30 Hrs on 31/10/2025 |
| Last date of reply to Bid Clarification | Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 04/11/2025 |
| Last date and time for receipt of tenders | Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 06/11/2025 |
| Due date and time of opening of tenders | 14:30 Hrs on 06/11/2025 |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | ₹ 51,820/- |

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/-
Group Director, C & M G, URSC

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**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**
**(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)**
2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ).–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ (EOI) :–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ : (1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–10–2025 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–10–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–10–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–11–2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/432/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

**KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**
Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321
No.: CEL/CEO-3/XVFC/2023-24/procure date:16.10.2025
**Short Term Tender Notification**
**(Through e-Procurement portal)**
The Member Secretory (Purchaser), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has invited bids from eligible tenderers for following categories in KPPP [https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in] procurement portal for following indents
1. For the supply of Mobile van air monitoring sensors in KPPP [https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in] procurement portal for following indents No: KSPCB/2024-25/IND0026/CALL-3
2. For procurement of 15 no's Ambient VOC analyzer to Regional offices of KSPCB Bengaluru In. No: KSPCB/2024-25/IND0022/CALL-2

Last date and time for uploading the bids online: 30.10.2025 and 15.11.2025, respectively (till evening 4:00 pm). More details can be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3397/AKAR/2025-26 Member Secretary
**Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources**

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag**
No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender/2024-25/2404 Date: 24.10.2025
**E-Procurement tender Notification**
**Standard Bid Document KW-1 & KW-3**
**(One Cover &Two Cover System)**
Tenders are invited for the following 4 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 Rules from eligible PWD contractors through e-Procurement Portal Under H/A:2024-25 5054 Flood Damage Grant, 2023-24 Zilla Panchayat Public School 4202 (AWP&B) Grant, 2025-26 Horticulture Dept 4235 Grant, 2025-26 MGNREGA Grant, of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in The work Indent details are as shown below.
**Indent Nos** : **18433, 19464, 19555, 10406/CALL-2**
**The details of Tender Fees and EMD** : Tender Fees and correspondence EMD details with respect to work indent details to be seen as per E-Procurement portal. (Minimum Amount : **5.87** Lakhs) ( Maximum Amount: **62.71** Lakhs)
Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **27-10-2025** to **11-11-2025** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **12-11-2025** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid: **13-11-2025** at 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within **20** days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, more details can be had during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/342/2025-26

**NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT OF VARIOUS REGIMENTAL SHOPS AT TRAINING BATTALION-III, MADRAS ENGINEER GROUP & CENTRE, BANGALORE-560033**
1. Commanding Officer, Training Battalion-III, Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bangalore-33 invites applications for allotment of five Regimental shops on rental basis at this Battalion. Shops would be allotted to the highest bidder based on undermentioned priority in descending order of applications :-
   1.1. War widows/widows of Defence personnel killed while on duty.
   1.2. Disabled Soldiers.
   1.3. Ex-Servicemen.
   1.4. Spouse/ Widow of Ex-Servicemen.
2. Details of shops and sequence of auction are as under :-

| Ser No | Building No | Type of Shops | Area in Square Feet |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T-21/4 | Tailor Shop | 250 |
| 2 | T-21/5 | Cafeteria | 250 |
| 3 | T-26/1 | WET Canteen | 600 |
| 4 | T-29/2 | General Store | 250 |
| 5 | T-29/5 | Tailor Shop | 250 |

3. The license fees, rebate and other terms & condition will be intimated during collection of application form.
4. Application forms will be available at 'Q' Branch at Training Battalion-III. The date wise timelines are as under :-
   4.1. Issue of Application form to be collected by applicants. : 27 October to 31 October 2025 (0900 Hours to 1300 Hours daily for above mentioned five days)
   4.2. Date of receipt of application : 01 November 2025 (0001 Hours) to 02 November 2025 (2359 Hours)
   4.3. Proposed date of auction : 08 November 2025 (1000 Hours)
   4.4. DD in favour of : REGT FUND ACCOUNT TB-III payable at SBI, TB-III MEG & Centre, Bangalore
   4.5 DD Amount: 500/- (refundable to those, who will not be allotted shop & will be adjusted towards security deposit of those who will be allotted shop).
5. Allotment of shop will be for the period of 11 months.

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,** 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
**Telephone No.** 080-22133370, **Email ID:** eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
**E-Portal :** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home
**Tender Notification No. 32/2025-26 DATED: 24.10.2025**
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, Doddaballapura Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for 03 works **(Rs.14.50 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.
**1.**Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 10.11.2025**
**2.** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **11.11.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.
For more details contact this office.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/3413/Zen/2025-26 PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

# HAL-made HTT-40 pilot-trainer takes flight in B'luru

## Delivery delayed as Honeywell misses turboprop deadline

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The first indigenous Hindustan Turbo Trainer (HTT)-40 Series Production aircraft, which is expected to train the next generation of air-warriors, took to the skies in Bengaluru on Friday.

Named TH 4001, the basic trainer aircraft is a fully aerobatic tandem-seat turboprop aircraft built to provide basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying, and night flying, according to officials at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the manufacturer of the aircraft.

While the aircraft's prototypes have been flying for eight years, this is the first Series Production unit — planes built on the industrial production line that will manufacture the same aircraft in future.

The Union Defence Ministry in 2023 signed a Rs 6,800-crore contract with HAL for 70 basic training aircraft for rookie pilots. The TH 4001 that flew at the HAL facility will be among those 70.

Sources said it would take two to three months for HTT-40 to receive the final operational clearance from the regulatory agency, Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC).

Initially, HAL promised to hand over the first basic trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF) by September 2025.

However, US major Honeywell's failure to supply the first batch of six TPE331-12B turboprop engines to HAL delayed the delivery schedule.

The IAF needs 181 basic trainer aircraft for pilot-training, but currently has only 75 Pilatus PC-7 aircraft. The HTT-40 was approved in 2011, has still not been inducted into service.The shortage of trainer aircraft — both basic and intermediate — is one of the key reasons the IAF lowered its pilot intake.

### Desi wings: Homegrown aircraft lifts off after long wait

HTT-40 will provide basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying, and night flying

- First HTT-40 Series Production aircraft flew on Friday
- MoD in 2023 signed Rs 6800 crore contract with HAL to supply 70 HTT-40
- Delivery hasn't happened due to glitches on engine supply
- Honeywell is likely to start supplying the turbo-prop engines from 2026
- The Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) is an indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft
- It is a fully aerobatic, tandem-seat, turboprop aircraft
- It is designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

**FEATURES**

**Engine:** It is powered by a Honeywell TPE331-12B turboprop engine.

**Cockpit:** A modern glass cockpit with smart multi-function displays integrated into an air-conditioned cabin.

**Safety:** The aircraft is fitted with advanced zero-zero ejection seats, which allow safe ejection even at zero speed and zero altitude.

**Operational features:** It includes advanced capabilities like "hot refueling" (refuelling with the engine running) and "running changeover" of pilots (pilot changing with engine running), which minimize turnaround time.

# DivyaSree, REVA University felicitate students representing India at Robotics Olympics in Panama

(Left to right) Akhil Arun Menon, Ningaraj, Gouresh K, Gagan Goyal, Dr P Shyama Raju, Meenal Majumdar, Mythra S P, G N Chandan Raj, Arjun K Raj and Parashuram M at the felicitation organised by DivyaSree, in collaboration with the STEM Education Trust, The Innovation Story and REVA University.

In a proud moment for India's innovation ecosystem, DivyaSree, in collaboration with the STEM Education Trust and The Innovation Story, joined hands with REVA University to felicitate five exceptional students from Government High School, Malleswaram. These students will represent India at the prestigious FIRST Global Challenge – Robotics Olympics 2025, to be held in Panama (first.global/fgc).

At the felicitation ceremony held at REVA University yesterday, the students Arjun K Raj (robot CAD designer), G N Chandan Raj (electronics lead), Gouresh K (robot programmer), Ningaraj (mechanical lead) and Parashuram M (robot driver) showcased their robot and engaged with students and faculty during an interactive session.

Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University, commended the young innovators, highlighting how such achievements reflect REVA's 'educate to enterprise' philosophy. "Innovation is a daily affair for REVAites. Our goal is not just to award degrees but to create innovators and inventors of tomorrow.

What these students have achieved is an eye-opener and an inspiration for all. Education must ignite curiosity and nurture an enterprising mindset," he said.

Gagan Goyal, General Partner, India Quotient, spoke on the "three Ps of innovation — Prerana (inspiration), patience and perseverance". He stressed on the need to discover and nurture hidden talent across schools.

Meenal Majumdar, Founder, The Innovation Story, encouraged students to lead with curiosity and creativity. "Curiosity is your superpower. Innovation begins when you ask why. Start first, prototype fast and build on your ideas. The best innovations are those that create real impact," she said.

The students also demonstrated their robot which will compete in the 'Eco Equilibrium Challenge', a segment of the FIRST Global Challenge 2025 focused on leveraging technology and innovation to restore balance to the planet's ecosystem. The global event gathers young innovators from over 190 countries, empowering the next generation of problem-solvers and changemakers.

Through this partnership, DivyaSree and REVA University reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing STEM education, innovation and inclusive growth by providing mentorship, resources and platforms that enable young minds to dream big and build for the future.

FCG Team India mentor Akhil Arun Menon, Government High School – Malleswaram's mentor Mythra S P, and faculty and staff of REVA University, were also present at the event.

Curated by DH Brandspot

# I.N.D.I.A bloc's NC wins 3 RS seats in J&K; BJP gets 1

## Sajad Lone alleges cross-voting; 86 out of 88 legislators participated in poll

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In a closely watched Rajya Sabha election in Jammu and Kashmir, the I.N.D.I.A bloc secured three of the four vacant Upper House seats on Friday, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) captured the remaining seat, amid reports of cross-voting.

The election, held for the first time in over a decade since the abrogation of Article 370, began at 9 am at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly complex in Srinagar and concluded at 4 pm. Counting of votes commenced at 5 pm, with results announced shortly thereafter.

The ruling National Conference (NC) celebrated victories for its candidates Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan and Sajad Kichloo, while party treasurer G S Oberoi, popularly known as Shammi Oberoi, won the third seat. The BJP's Sat Sharma secured the fourth seat by receiving 32 votes, defeating NC's Imran Nabi Dar, who garnered 22 votes.

Ramzan and Kichloo's wins were largely anticipated, as the NC enjoyed the support of 58 legislators, including its own 41 members, six from Congress, three from the PDP, one CPI (M) member, and several independents.

However, the BJP's tally of 32 votes on the fourth seat—despite holding only 28 legislators in the 88-member assembly—sparked questions.

J&K People's Conference chief Sajad Lone, who abstained from the voting, alleged a "fixed match" between the NC and the BJP. "Axis of evil. NC and BJP. Thank God I abstained," he posted on X.

The election had brought the I.N.D.I.A bloc into a tight coalition, with Congress and PDP extending support to the NC.

National Conference's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi (centre) celebrates after his victory in the Rajya Sabha election in Srinagar on Friday. PTI

### Omar casts doubts on allies

J&K Chief Minister and NC leader Omar Abdullah questioned how the BJP managed to secure four extra votes in the elections, raising suspicions over Congress, PDP and independent legislators who had pledged support to NC candidates.

Omar said that all NC votes remained intact across the four seats contested, and challenged those responsible for the BJP's unexpected tally.

"All of @JKNC_ votes remained intact across the four elections, as witnessed by our election agent, who saw each polling slip. There was no cross-voting from any of our MLAs, so the question arises — where did the 4 extra votes of the BJP come from?" he asked.

# SIR in TN to begin in a week or so: ECI to Madras HC

CHENNAI, DHNS: With just six months to go for the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday informed the Madras High Court that it would commence the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state in a week.

Niranjan Rajagopalan, the counsel for the ECI, told the first division bench that the SIR will commence in a "week or so" as part of the nationwide exercise.

The ECI also gave an assurance to the court that it would follow all directions given by the Supreme Court in a case related to SIR in Bihar while conducting the exercise in Tamil Nadu. The state will go to Assembly polls in April-May 2026, and already political parties like the ruling DMK have been asking people to be vigilant and cautious while participating in the exercise.

During the hearing, the ECI's counsel informed the court that the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners have already held consultations with the Chief Electoral Officers on the SIR exercise in other states, including TN.

# Turmoil in Kerala's ruling LDF over PM SHRI

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

**On Thursday, the state government signed a pact with Centre to implement the PM SHRI scheme. However, coalition partners are learnt to be unhappy over the CPM taking the decision unilaterally**

Kerala is witnessing major political turmoil with the ruling CPM justifying the decision to implement the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, whereas CPI, the second largest party in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, is conveying its strong protest for taking the policy decision without discussion in the LDF.

A meeting of the CPI state executive committee will be held on October 27 to decide the party's future position. CPI gave a letter to the LDF convenor and other parties conveying the resentment over taking the major policy decision without discussion in the LDF, CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam said after the party state leaders' meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

"CPM took the policy decision to implement PM SHRI without discussion in the LDF. It is against the basic principles of the front. The CPI is still of the view that PM SHRI was part of the BJP's attempts to impose the RSS agenda in the education sector through the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP)," Viswam said.

Meanwhile, Education Minister and CPM leader V Sivankutty said that the government changed its earlier stand against NEP following discussion, and it was not possible to oppose NEP forever, especially since around Rs 1,500 crore was due from the Centre.

With the CPM and CPI at loggerheads, the coming days are quite crucial in Kerala politics. Other coalition partners were also learnt to be unhappy over the CPM taking the decision unilaterally.

# Congress tries to stake claim to Sitaram Kesri's legacy

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

At 24, Akbar Road, where he was manhandled at least twice and relegated to insignificance so far, the Congress on Friday resurrected the memories of its former chief Sitaram Kesri on his 25th death anniversary, with Rahul Gandhi leading the tributes.

Several saw the sudden interest in Kesri — a dyed-in-the-wool politician from Bihar who promoted the politics of social justice but was "unceremoniously" ousted as party president in 1998 to pave the way for Sonia Gandhi — as a smart move ahead of the Assembly elections.

Rahul paid floral tributes to a black-and-white portrait of Kesri, who died in 2000 at the age of 81. Kesri's grandson Rakesh was present.

While a Congress delegation went to Danapur in 2000 for his cremation, it never commemorated his birth or death anniversaries.

His ouster as party chief on March 14, 1998, through a contentious CWC meeting masterminded by leaders like the late Pranab Mukherjee, was followed by some party workers booing him and tugging at his *dhoti* as he returned home in his damaged car.

A year later, at a CWC meeting to expel Sharad Pawar and others for rebelling against Sonia on the "foreign origin" issue, he was again manhandled by workers who suspected that he sympathised with the rebels.

The Congress' attempt to reclaim Kesri's legacy comes at a time when Rahul is espousing social justice politics, of which the late leader was a master.

Senior journalist Harish Khare recalled in 2000, after Kesri's death, that he was an "unapologetic advocate of Mandal politics".

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to Sitaram Kesri. PTI

**POLL GESTURE**

- Party marks leader's 25th death anniversary with tributes led by Rahul
- Cong had long avoided commemorating Kesri due to his fraught history with the leadership
- Gesture seen as strategic ahead of Bihar polls, where Kesri hailed from

# Be alert to fight invisible enemy, Rajnath urges army

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday once again alerted the Indian Army to the "invisible enemy" that can strike suddenly from space to cyberspace, asserting that soldiers need to embrace new technologies to thwart such attacks.

Rajnath Singh

"Modern-day warfare is fought in invisible domains such as cyberspace, information, electronic disruption, and space control. What matters is quick decision-making and the willpower of the soldiers, along with adapting to the latest technological advancements," the minister said, addressing the Army Commanders Conference at Jaisalmer.

As a part of the process to equip the army with advanced warfare technologies, he inaugurated the first two Edge Data Centres at Konark Corps and Fire and Fury Corps.

By next year, all 14 Corps of the Indian Army will have such data centres, which will explore new battlefield technologies that will work without a secure cyber network and in poor connectivity zones, as expected in a real battlefield, but will still give the military an edge over the enemy.

Rajnath also reviewed the army exercise Thar Shakti that involves the employment of new units like the Bhairav battalion and Ashni drone platoon, along with the latest technological assets inducted into the Indian Army for the conduct of operations.

Following Operation Sindoor, the government has decided to have Ashni drone platoons in each of the 382 battalions of the Indian Army.

# Treats for the festive season

The festive season is still on and here are a couple of delicacies curated by chef Aadharsh Tatpati you can try at home.

Chef Aadharsh Tatpati

## Kollegala Mutton Nalli Pulao

**What you need:**

- 500 gm each of mutton nalli with meat on it (5-6) and jeera samba rice
- 2 sliced onions
- 6 crushed green chillis
- 1 tbsp each of pepper powder, shahi jeera, kasoori methi, ginger garlic paste
- 200 ml curd
- 4 tbsps of oil, two tablespoons of ghee
- 2 cm cinnamon, 5 cardamoms, 7 cloves, 3 star anise
- ½ tbsp turmeric
- 1 tsp mutton masala powder
- 1 small cup each of chopped coriander and pudina leaves
- Salt to taste

**Preparation:**

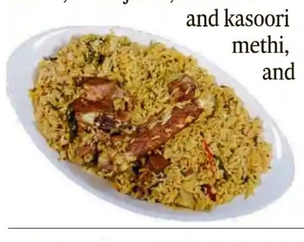
Cook the mutton nalli/bone marrows in pressure cooker by adding a little salt and a pinch of turmeric until done. Keep it aside. Soak jeera samba rice for 30 minutes. In a biryani vessel, heat oil and ghee together, then add cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, shahi jeera, star anise and kasoori methi, and stir fry for 30 seconds. Add sliced onions and fry till light golden brown.

Add ginger garlic paste, crushed green chillies and saute for five minutes on medium flame. Add curd, salt to taste, pepper powder, chopped coriander leaves and pudina, and saute for another five minutes.

Now add one litre of mutton stock, mutton nalli pieces and mutton masala powder, and stir well, cover and bring to boil.

Now add soaked rice, stir once, cover and dum cook for 15 minutes on slow flame.

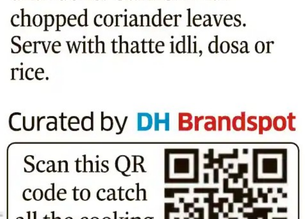
Serve with tomato and cucumber raita.



## Kanakpura style Hole Meenu Saaru

**What you need:**

- 500 gm of Kalluru fish or basa fish, sliced
- 4 byadagi dry chillis
- 1-2 tsps red chilli powder
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- Tamarind (lemon size)
- Tomato paste (2 medium size)
- Onion paste (1 large size)
- 1 tbsp ginger garlic paste
- 3 tbsps oil
- 1 small cup of coriander leaves
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- 1 tsp each of jeera/cumin and mustard seeds
- ½ tsp fenugreek seeds
- 2 sprigs of curry leaves
- 1 glass of water and salt to taste



**Preparation:**

Wash the fish pieces thoroughly and keep aside. In a mixi jar add dry roasted byadgi chillis, coriander seeds, cumin seeds, fenugreek seeds and grind to a fine powder. In a kadai, heat oil, then add mustard seeds and curry leaves, and after a few seconds, add onion paste and ginger garlic paste, and fry till golden brown. Now add tomato paste and stir fry till oil separates.

Add ground masala powder mix well and stir fry for five minutes on medium flame. Add one glass of water, stir well, add tamarind juice/pulp, bring it to boil, then add fish pieces, Cook until done. Garnish with chopped coriander leaves.

Serve with thatte idli, dosa or rice.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Scan this QR code to catch all the cooking action

# Piyush Pandey no more, but his taglines persist

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

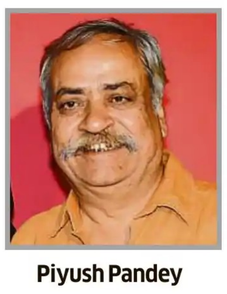
Legendary adman Piyush Pandey — known for famous campaigns like the BJP's 2014 "acche din" and "abki baar Modi sarkar" slogans, "Fevicol ka jod, tutega nahi", Cadbury Dairy Milk's "Kuch khaas hai", and Asian Paints' "Har ghar kuch kehta hai" — passed away in Mumbai on Friday. He was 70.

Pandey wrote the iconic "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara" — the song-video on national integration, highlighting linguistic communities and cultures — which first aired on Doordarshan on August 15, 1988, is still watched on social media platforms, and got a revisit in 2019.

He was also one of the key persons behind the "Incredible India" campaign.

The cricketer-turned-advertiser — a Ranji Trophy player from Rajasthan — had not been keeping well for some time.

Pandey's trademark moustache made him an interesting personality. He was a giant in the field of advertising, his work capturing Indian art and culture.



Piyush Pandey

He was known to think out of the box and deliver masterpieces that struck a chord with the common people.

Born in Jaipur in 1955, he had eight siblings, including film director Prasoon Pandey and singer-actor Ila Arun. He studied at St Xavier's School in Jaipur and St Stephen's College in Delhi. In his initial days, he tried his luck as a tea-taster.

Pandey began his advertising career in 1982 with Ogilvy & Mather India (now Ogilvy India). He rose through the ranks to hold some of the agency's top leadership roles.

In 2018, the Pandey brothers, Piyush and Prasoon, became the first Asians to receive the Lion of St Mark award — presented at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity for a lifetime of service to creativity in communications — for promoting Indian creativity globally. He spearheaded iconic campaigns like Bajaj Auto's "Hamara Bajaj", Kinetic's "Chal meri Luna" and Vodafone's pug and ZooZoos.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

# A poor defence of inhumane justice

The Supreme Court's recent observation about hanging as a method of executing convicts marks an important turn in discussions on the contentious topic. Last week, the Court heard a PIL seeking an end to the present method of execution and adoption of alternatives such as lethal injections, shooting, or electrocution that leave the convict dead in minutes. The petitioner also sought for the convict the choice to have a less painful death. Following the government's refusal to engage with these suggestions, the Court posted the matter for a hearing next month. When told about the resistance, the Court observed that the government was "not ready to evolve" even when views on the subject have undergone major changes.

In its affidavit, the government had told the Court that hanging was a safer and quicker option. It also contended, disturbingly, that making the execution process "overtly comfortable, serene and painless" could dilute its deterrent effect. Backing a painful end to a convict's life to ensure greater deterrence reflects an inhuman attitude. The government also needs to explain its statement that hanging is "free from anything that would unnecessarily sharpen the poignancy of the prisoner's apprehension." What the petitioner seeks for the death-row convicts is a more dignified and humane way to die. The plea points to the disturbing manner in which hangings are carried out, leaving the body on the rope for more than half an hour after the execution. The methods, the plea noted, are not humane and violate the right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

**Claims of deterrence cannot justify painful executions. SC's observation underlines dignity in death penalty**

It is ironic that when the inhumanity of death penalty is itself being widely debated upon, there is a discussion about the right ways to kill a convict, with the government endorsing the most painful among them. Evidence defies the government's claim that capital punishment leads to greater deterrence. It is unjust and even discriminatory, because most of the people who are awarded the death sentence are from the marginalised sections of society. Death penalty violates the cardinal principle that a system of justice should aim at reformation and not retribution. When the world is moving towards abolition of the death penalty, it is unfortunate that the government talks about the problems in providing "serene" and "comfortable" deaths to people. The arguments reflect a skewed sense of justice. The government's position on the matter, as the Court said, reveals an inability to evolve with the times, and misses the critical element of humanity.

# Aland case: EC in a test of trust

The revelations emerging from the Special Investigation Team (SIT)'s probe into the Aland voter deletion case in Karnataka raise serious questions about the integrity of India's electoral processes. The SIT has found that suspects were allegedly paid Rs 80 for every successfully deleted vote ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. Over 6,000 fraudulent applications (Form 7s) were filed to strike off legitimate voters, many from Dalit and minority communities, though only about 30 deletions succeeded. The scale and execution of this alleged fraud should have alarmed the Election Commission (EC). Instead, it has chosen to deny the irregularities and deflect responsibility.

The case came under the national spotlight after the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of obstructing the investigation. Gandhi alleged that the CID, which earlier handled the probe, had written to the EC 18 times seeking vital technical data, without receiving a single response. For the record, the EC has maintained that it fully cooperated with the Aland inquiry, a claim that the state government has categorically denied. Earlier, Gandhi had alleged large-scale irregularities in the Mahadevapura constituency in Bengaluru. Independent fact-checks later confirmed many of these charges. The EC's reluctance to engage meaningfully with the investigation and its silence on the verified discrepancies have eroded public confidence in its neutrality. Even more troubling has been the Commission's inconsistent approach. When Gandhi raised concerns about "vote theft", the EC's response was to demand that he file an affidavit under an irrelevant rule – something it has never required from BJP leaders who have made comparable allegations elsewhere. Why should the EC, which alone holds the data on voter lists, ask anyone else to furnish proof? The evidence is already within its custody. Its insistence on procedural formality, while failing to exercise due diligence itself betrays a lack of seriousness in confronting electoral manipulation.

**Denial and weak defences erode people's trust in the institution and its processes**

An election authority earns credibility through even-handed action. The EC's duty is to safeguard the sanctity of the vote, not to shield itself from scrutiny. By refusing to engage transparently with investigators and by discouraging legitimate questions, it risks diminishing its moral authority and weakening public faith in the democratic process. The Aland episode is a reminder that even attempted voter fraud, if ignored or minimised, can corrode institutional integrity. The Commission must now confront these doubts with openness and resolve, standing above suspicion rather than hiding behind procedure. Accountability, not defensiveness, should be its armour. For if it chooses evasion over action, it risks losing more than its reputation; it endangers the people's faith in the very fairness of elections.

NOBEL MOMENT

# Creative destruction for green, inclusive growth

The Nobel-winning work shows that a continual dismantling of the old is central to the idea of sustainable growth

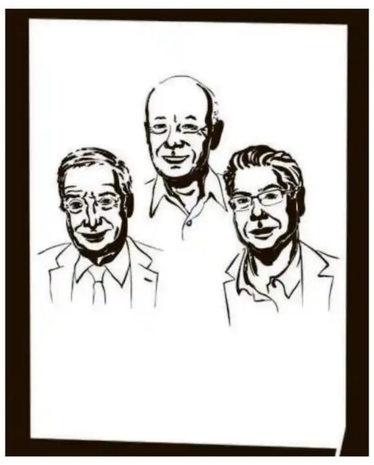
**NAVYA GUBBI SATEESHCHANDRA AND KADDOUR CHELABI**

Change is chaotic. For every breakthrough product, there's an incumbent business, job type, or way of doing things that may be displaced. This truth lies at the heart of the concept of creative destruction – innovation that builds but also damages or displaces what came before. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics, awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt, brings this process into sharp relief. In particular, the Aghion-Howitt model provides us with analytic tools not only to understand how economies grow, but also how they must manage conflicts to let growth persist, and how these strap into sustainable development.

The prize has honoured work that places innovation – and the wrenching upheaval it brings – at the heart of long-run prosperity. Aghion and Howitt's formalisation of "creative destruction" showed, with mathematical clarity, that sustained economic growth depends on a continual process in which new ideas and products render older technologies and business models obsolete; that very obsolescence is both the engine of higher living standards and a source of conflict that, if mismanaged, can choke off progress. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences stressed that the laureates, together with Joel Mokyr, who contributed a complementary historical perspective, illuminated not only how innovations fuel persistent growth but also how the distributional and political frictions they create must be dealt with constructively if economies are to escape stagnation and spread the gains of prosperity.

The model constructed by the laureates departs from simple, smooth models of growth by embedding Schumpeterian turnover – firms rise, innovate, and are replaced – into a formal growth framework. Crucially, the model shows feedback that policymakers and businesses cannot ignore: if incumbents expect that future research will rapidly make their investments worthless, they may underinvest today; conversely, if the political economy allows entrenched firms to block entry or slow adoption, innovation is muted and growth falters. The laureates' formalism made it possible to analyse these forces quantitatively and to think seriously about the institutions and incentives that sustain dynamic, innovation-led growth.

Why emphasise the "constructive" angle of destruction? Because creative destruction is not an automatic social good, it produces winners and losers. The framework makes plain that when those who lose from technological change can use political power or market frictions to resist displacement, the social returns to innovation fall. Incumbents may lobby for protection, delay the diffusion of superior technologies, or use scale and network effects to raise switching costs, dampening the very experiments and market reallocation that generate aggregate productivity gains.



Environmental sustainability and climate-neutral transitions require rapid diffusion of new green technologies: renewables, storage, energy-efficient industrial processes, and carbon removal methods. But those transitions threaten legacy firms and regions dependent on fossil-fuel capital, and they create distributional losses among workers and communities. The Aghion-Howitt lens reframes green transition policy: it is not enough to subsidise clean innovation; societies must design institutions that make the process of destruction constructive. That means protecting the social fabric, in parallel to keeping competition and entry incentives strong so that new, eco-friendly firms can compete and scale, for instance, through retraining, wage insurance, place-based economic regeneration, and phased exit strategies for carbon-intensive assets.

### Innovating for social returns

Another policy dimension that emerges from the creative-destruction framework concerns competition policy and the governance of dominant platforms. When a few companies capture large market shares, their ability to slow or shape the direction of innovation can be profound. The laureates' work implies a trade-off: too much protection of incumbents dampens entry and the Schumpeterian churn that raises productivity; too little attention to market power can let incumbents reap scale advantages that block nascent rivals. The practical takeaway is nuanced – regulators should tilt the playing field toward vigorous rivalry in product and technology markets while providing predictable rules for intellectual property, standard-setting, and data portability that lower the political returns from blocking disruptive challengers. This helps innovation produce social rather than merely private returns, and it prevents the political economy of incumbency from calcifying into stagnation.

Third, the Aghion-Howitt perspective emphasises the importance of complementary institutions: finance, education, and public research. Financing the risky, early-stage innovations that displace well-established technologies requires patient capital and markets that reward experimentation rather than short-term rent-seeking. Education systems that equip workers with transferable skills and lifelong learning lower the social cost of turnover, making the workforce resilient in the face of technological reallocation. Public research and infrastructure investments shape the frontier of technological opportunity; they can manoeuvre creative destruction towards socially valuable goals – for example, sustainability, health, and inclusive digitalisation – if coordinated with industrial policy that avoids cronyism.

The Nobel of Aghion, Howitt, Mokyr, and their peers signals a broader intellectual shift: growth theory now more explicitly recognises dynamics, institutions, and politics. The mathematics of creative destruction gave economists a tool to move beyond static welfare comparisons into a richer analysis of path dependence, lock-in, and political economy. That matters for sustainable development because the environmental and social challenges of the 21st century – climate, biodiversity loss, demographic shifts – are problems of dynamic transformation, not one-off reallocations.

To steer these transformations towards resilient and equitable outcomes, policymakers must create environments where destructive displacement is not a source of permanent impoverishment but a managed passage towards better livelihoods and a healthier planet. The prize thus celebrates not only a model but a policy imagination, one that sees the management of conflict and the design of institutions as central instruments of long-term prosperity.

*(The writers teach at the Berlin School of Business and Innovation)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# From leisure strolls to survival sprints

Quiet, leafy lanes have given way to chaos as Bengaluru changes its rhythm

**STANLEY CARVALHO**

I step out of my gate and swiftly come to attention as if on command during an NCC parade. Myriad cars and scooters are waiting impatiently for the traffic signal to change.

When it turns green, I am assailed by the honking of vehicles with varying levels of loudness and tone. That's no music, so I quickly plug my ears with my fingers.

The traffic light turns red, and I deftly weave my way through vehicles like a dodger in a game of Kho Kho while raising my outstretched palm towards the motorists to stop as they anxiously try to inch forward.

I reach the other side of the street and heave a sigh of relief.

Barely a few steps away, there's a heap of gravel stones. I leverage my long jump skills and leap across. Further down the street, the footpath is occupied by at least five women, ensconced comfortably selling vegetables and fruits.

I step down onto the road and gingerly move when I spot several puddles and potholes ahead. I decide to bring into play my talent in hurdles as I efficiently and rhythmically clear them all.

Changing tracks, I turn towards another street. There are vehicles coming from all directions; I look up heavenwards for succour; my prayer is answered. A cow emerges from nowhere to cross the street. All vehicles stop to let the bovine pass, and I smugly walk alongside her, thanking my stars for small mercies.

The street seems relatively quiet. I take brisk steps, breathing the polluted evening air. Barely fifty metres away, I spot a pack of stray dogs in the distance. Terrified of canines, I stop dead in my tracks and do a volte-face. The sight before me is equally dreadful. A dog walker is leading two Dobermanns. I cross to the other side and continue walking.

At the crossroads, I stop, glance at the five streets around me, reflect, and decide to enter what I perceive as one with little traffic. Alas, two-wheelers and even four-wheelers are parked on the walkway, cable wires hang low and garbage is strewn haphazardly. Pressing my nostrils, I start jogging until I reach a stretch where a dug-up road is blocked with barricades.

Dusk has fallen; a few street lights are flickering. 'Enough is enough,' I mutter, and I take the route home amid a cacophony of horns, including ambulance sirens. I wonder if that patient will reach the hospital on time in such insane traffic.

When I enter my gate, I feel a weight off my shoulders. I sit on a concrete bench, and once again I'm foolishly drawn to the past. Of how in good old Bangalore, one could cross the street with closed eyes when there were more bicycles than cars or scooters and motorists rarely sped, when it was a pleasure to stroll leisurely on tree-lined streets inhaling fresh air.

Nostalgia is bittersweet!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Allow ECI to do its duty

The Election Commission of India has announced its decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls across the country, following a successful exercise in Bihar. As per Article 324 of the Constitution, it is the ECI's duty to prepare, revise, and update electoral rolls. Having error-free and dynamic electoral rolls is crucial for fair elections. While some opposition leaders, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, have raised objections to the SIR, it is essential to remember that the ECI is discharging its constitutional duties. The Constitution entrusts the ECI with the responsibility of conducting elections, and its work cannot be hindered due to lack of confidence from some political parties. If a state government were to engineer riots or obstruct the ECI's constitutional functions, it would indicate a failure to administer the state in accordance with the Constitution.
**K R Jayaprakash Rao**, Mysuru

## Run on transparency

Apropos 'Metro tender a bad 'ad' for transparency?' (Oct 24), the recent advertisement tender floated by the BMRCL raises concerns about transparency and fairness. The tender, which spans 12 years and consolidates all metro corridors, including non-operational lines, appears to limit healthy competition and favour a pre-determined agency. This bundling of diverse routes may exclude smaller firms, undermining fair market participation. A transparent, segmented, and time-bound tender process would better serve both BMRCL and public interest.
**N Sadhasiva Reddy**, Bengaluru

## Maintain devices

Apropos 'Panic buttons in cabs seldom work, say drivers' (Oct 24), it is disturbing to learn that safety features in cabs seldom work. The purpose of installing these devices is to ensure safety, but it is defeated if they are not functioning properly. Regular checks should be conducted to ensure these devices are working, and suitable action should be taken against drivers and owners of cabs with non-functional devices.
**A K Shariff**, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I don't tell half-truths and lies. You all know what I say, I do. If the I.N.D.I.A bloc wins the elections, Tejashwi will become the CM, and the people will become *chinta mukt* (tension-free). I will ensure there will be no crime and present a corruption-free government in Bihar.

**Tejashwi Yadav**, RJD leader and former Bihar Dy CM

What you do is so loud, I can't hear what you say.
**Mike Addington**

TO BE PRECISE

*PM endorses Nitish as NDA's CM face*

IN PERSPECTIVE

# Tourism on the tiger's path

Promoting tourism around the Beladakuppe Temple threatens an already stressed ecological balance

**GIRIDHAR KULKARNI**

Karnataka recently showcased a questionable stroke of "genius": declaring the Beladakuppe Mahadeshwara Swamy Temple, located deep within the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, a tourist hotspot. After all, what could better honour a deity whose mythical vehicle is a tiger than inviting real tigers to contend with crowds, buses, bullock carts, and selfie sticks? The irony is stark: a deity who symbolises harmony with the wild is now being "celebrated" in a way that places the very wildlife sustaining him at risk.

For those who think the temple's location is random, history and legend tell a different tale. Mahadeshwara Swamy deliberately chose this remote, dense forest as his abode – for its serene isolation, spiritual energy, and the opportunity for harmonious coexistence with nature. The forest offered a sanctuary for meditation, devotion, and protection from worldly distractions. Symbolically, the deity's vehicle is a tiger, and the tiger serves as the guardian of the forest. Honouring the deity requires honouring the tiger. Disturbing the tiger is, in effect, disrespecting Mahadeshwara himself. The temple's setting of wilderness reflects a timeless principle: humans are visitors, not masters, in the forest.

The timing of the announcement could not have been more dramatic. Just days later, a villager living near the temple, though outside the forest, was attacked by a tiger while approaching a Forest Department combing team that was attempting to rescue an injured tiger. While the government invites tourists into the tiger's home, nature issues a stark reminder – tigers do not negotiate with calendars, press releases, or human convenience. This incident underscores the invisible boundary that humans often forget: entering a tiger's space unprepared can have fatal consequences.

Beladakuppe is not vacant land awaiting development. It lies in the core zone of one of India's most critical tiger habitats. Lakes and streams here provide vital lifelines for tigers, elephants, leopards, and countless smaller species. Disturbing this environment disrupts feeding, breeding, and the delicate ecological balance. Noise, pollution, and crowds during temple fairs – or now, proposed tourism – threaten the very survival of these animals. Even minor intrusions can alter tiger movement patterns, increase stress, and reduce reproductive success, with long-term effects on the ecosystem. Importantly, any tourism activity or construction within a tiger reserve must occur only in the designated tourism zone, as outlined in the Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Beladakuppe is not in this zone, and the Bandipur TCP contains no provisions for tourism here. Placing the temple on the tourism map is therefore illegal, violating both ecological science and legal safeguards.

The annual temple fair already pushes these boundaries. Thousands descend with vehicles and bullock carts, and vendors join in with temporary stalls. Even with private vehicle restrictions, human activity tramples vegetation, contaminates water, and stresses wildlife.

The NTCA has recommended relocating the fair outside the tiger reserve. Decades of field research and conservation experience reinforce this warning: core tiger habitats are no place for human crowds. Ignoring it is not just negligent – it is irresponsible and dangerous.

### Clear warnings

Compounding the problem is the government's decision to hand over the temple administration to the Muzrai Department, which the NTCA itself flagged as illegal in its inspection report. This administrative move, combined with promoting tourism in a core tiger habitat, contravenes multiple wildlife and forest governance norms.

The human risk is real. Villages near the temple are already vulnerable to wildlife encounters. Promoting the temple as a tourist destination only increases the likelihood of more such incidents, endangering both locals and visitors.

Karnataka prides itself on its heritage and natural beauty – but heritage is not about Instagrammable wildlife selfies. It is about respect, foresight, and balance. Sacred temples can coexist with forests, but only if human intrusion is carefully managed. Rather than promoting mass tourism, authorities should implement regulated pilgrimages, eco-friendly infrastructure outside the forest, strict visitor limits, and seasonal closures aligned with wildlife breeding cycles.

Tiger populations face constant threats from habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. Encouraging tourism in the core of Bandipur – a park that has survived centuries – is ecologically reckless. To truly honour Mahadeshwara, one must honour his vehicle, the tiger.

Beladakuppe Mahadeshwara Temple deserves reverence, but that reverence is measured not by the number of tourists who are allowed into the forest, but by leaving the tiger's domain undisturbed, respecting centuries of ecological balance, and listening when nature delivers unmistakable warnings. Wildlife comes first, and in doing so, Mahadeshwara is truly honoured.

*(The writer is a wildlife conservationist)*

MIGRATION MAKEOVER:

# Securing safe passage for a global India

## A new mobility law aims to protect migrant workers, empower professionals, and align the nation's international ambitions with citizen welfare

SANJAY BHATTACHARYYA

The Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025, provides a citizen-centric governance approach to the age-old issue of migration and mobility. It marks a significant step towards reconciling the twin objectives of ensuring safe, regular and orderly migration while safeguarding the legal interests and welfare of migrant workers and professionals abroad.

India's diaspora of almost 36 million people is the largest globally. While 19 million have adopted foreign nationality, and 17 million are Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). In the 21st century, India emerged as the largest source country for migration. They include professionals, workers and students who inhabit almost all countries. Indians constitute just 6% of the global migrant community, but the country's youthful demography could contribute more migrants through the 21st century. India's emigration laws needed a reset to align migration with domestic priorities and the changing global migration environment.

India's emigration laws were enacted by the British between 1837 and 1922 to serve their interests and provide a legal basis for indentured labour. By 1917, they had shipped close to two million Indians, mostly mustered by agents, to work in plantations and mines in British colonies. Most could not return home. Colonial laws continued even after Independence. The Emigration Act, 1983, sought to correct the exploitation of vulnerable workers and had some success.

### 21st-century mobility trends

The 21st century brought new trends in migration and mobility. Traditional destinations in the Gulf sought low-skilled workers and few professionals, leaving many in the stranglehold of unscrupulous agents and employers. Workers returned home after their contracts expired. The bilateral Labour Agreements negotiated with the Gulf countries improved the situation, but Indian embassies in the region remained vigilant and maintained shelter homes for distressed workers. Meanwhile, new pathways were opening in Europe, the Americas and the Far East that sought qualified professionals and skilled workers, provided better working conditions and higher remuneration. This facilitated mobility for professionals, skilled workers and students; many made successful transitions in the destination country or engaged in circular migration. It also attracted illegal migrants, often controlled by human traffickers, leading to a community whose integration was not planned and demands for their return home. India engaged in mobility dialogues with several developed countries.

### Need for new legislation

The duality in the new emigration patterns revealed weakness in the legal framework from a governance perspective. The 1983 Act needed to switch from regulatory control to a facilitative environment for migrants. The draft Emigration Bill, 2019, addressed certain gaps, but was not pursued as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted migration patterns. In the interim, migration governance objectives shifted towards an environment to facilitate mobility, secure better working conditions and provide welfare measures. Skill mapping exercises had established the link between higher skills and remuneration, while mobility partnerships had opened new pathways for employment and higher remittance capacity. Protectionism in developed countries came alongside new understandings of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). These developments required integration into a revised legal framework.

### New mindset on governance

The draft Overseas Mobility Bill has generic provisions that reflect an evolving mindset on governance. Its rules and regulations, yet to be announced, and integration of stakeholders will determine how far its implementation can shift it away from the old regime.

First, the draft Bill adopts a comprehensive and future-oriented approach by subsuming multiple forms of overseas mobility, workers and professionals, within a unified legal architecture. The expansion of coverage to include professionals and a new focus on mobility reflect a dynamic and realistic approach to the evolving migration scenario.

Second, the institutional infrastructure envisages the establishment of a new Overseas Mobility and Welfare Council and re-designation of officials and their offices in India and abroad to facilitate coordination, policy coherence and welfare delivery. The inclusion of Ministries of Skill Development and Labour can coordinate the skilling of migrant workers and internal migration. Welfare delivery can mainstream the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for efficiency and effectiveness. Though certain provisions mirror existing structures, the draft Bill reflects a change in mindset towards a citizen-centric approach. A similar change was reflected in the Passport Seva project, which proved to be a successful model for digital governance.

Third, emphasis on integrated information systems will provide data for evidence-based policymaking. This was a lacuna in the earlier system. It is hoped that a robust mechanism will be developed for data capture on a compulsory basis to ensure data adequacy. Such data is useful for governments to negotiate mobility partnerships, provide voting facilities to NRIs overseas or prepare for evacuation in crises.

Fourth, the inclusion of international cooperation covers another gap in earlier legislation. The globalised world underscores the need for a governance model premised on safe, regular and orderly mobility through cooperation between source and destination countries. It can open new pathways for empowered citizens, evaluate the contributions of migrants to development in destination countries, deal with risks of human trafficking, and discuss the issue of the return of illegal migrants. The draft includes global best practices and the progress made by India in negotiating bilateral agreements for mobility, as well as international understandings under GCM.

The draft Bill refers to Overseas Placement Agencies and Foreign Employers as important stakeholders. It lists provisions for accreditation and penalties to add teeth to the legal provisions, but the picture will be clearer once the rules are framed. Similarly, the current practice of ECR passports that require permission to travel abroad will also require clarification in the rules. Closer coordination with State governments will help implementation efforts.

The success of a new migration law will depend on how an enabling environment is created that facilitates and incentivises stakeholders towards safe, regular and orderly migration, while disincentivising illegal migration. Skilling young Indians in the future of jobs overseas, negotiating better working conditions for workers, and opening new pathways for migration will be crucial. The law should empower young Indian migrants to strengthen their leverage and promote their image in destination countries. Coordination between stakeholders and periodic review of the law is necessary. Finally, the effectiveness of migration governance will depend on its alignment with national development priorities.

*(The writer is a former Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and currently Professor at Jindal Global University)*

### OVERSEAS MOBILITY (FACILITATION and WELFARE) Bill, 2025

- The new Bill will replace the **Emigration Act, 1983,** which currently regulates the process of emigration of workers from India, particularly those with **Emigration Check Required (ECR)** category passports.
- The **MEA** made the draft of the new Bill public on **October 8, 2025,** seeking comments from the public till **November 7, 2025.**
- The **Protector General of Emigrants (PGE),** under the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA),** enforces the **Emigration Act, 1983.**

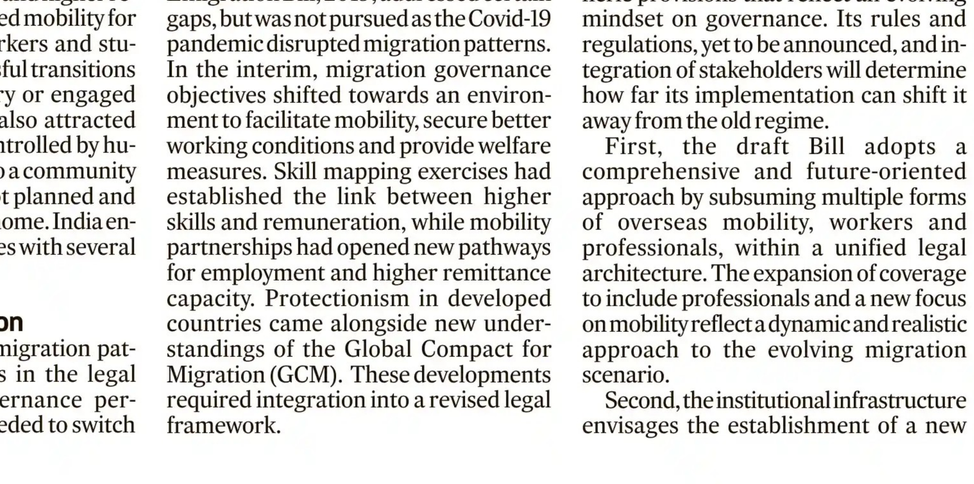
**The draft Bill has been released at a time when illegal migration has come under international focus, with the crackdown launched in the United States by President Donald Trump's administration.**

**THE NEW BILL...**

- Proposes to establish an **Overseas Mobility and Welfare Council**
- Seeks to strike a balance between promoting opportunities abroad and establishing a **regulatory framework** for the protection and welfare of vulnerable categories
- Establishes a mechanism to oversee the administration and implementation of **international agreements on migration and mobility**
- Creates robust data-driven policy management based on **labour studies** and coordinated actions with different ministries and departments
- Strengthens measures to discourage **illegal migration** and curb **human trafficking**

- The US deported **2417** Indians between **January** and **September 2025.**
- Altogether **15,564** Indians were deported from the US between **2009 and 2024.**
- The UK deported **311** Indians between **2020** and **2024**, and **131** more till **August 2025**.

(SOURCE: MEA)



The unauthorised immigrant population from India in the US fell by **54%** from **4,80,000** in **2018**, but was still estimated to be around **2,20,000** in **2022**.

(US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY)

**Nearly 1.58 crore Indian citizens live in foreign countries**

**Countries with the maximum number of Indians**

| Country | Number |
|---|---|
| UAE | 35,54,274 |
| Saudi Arabia | 24,60,603 |
| USA | 20,77,158 |
| Canada | 10,16,274 |
| Kuwait | 9,93,284 |
| Qatar | 8,35,175 |
| Nepal | 7,00,000 (approx..) |
| UK | 3,69,000 (approx.) |
| Singapore | 3,50,000 (approx.) |
| Australia | 3,50,000 (approx.) |
| Bahrain | 3,23,908 |

(SOURCE: MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, UPDATED TILL NOVEMBER 26, 2024)

**Between 2020 and 2024, Emigration Clearances** were granted, through the E-Migrate portal of the MEA, to **13,85,630** Indian workers, holding the **Emigration Check Required (ECR)** passports, for proceeding for overseas employment to the **18 notified ECR category countries.**



# This trigger destroys cells when viruses invade

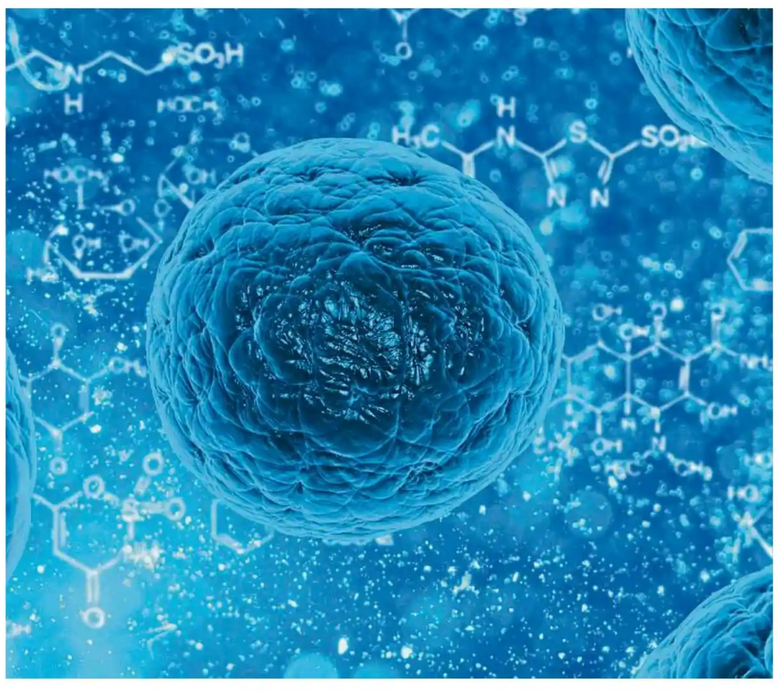
## A special class of immune proteins protects us from pathogens, but also drives inflammation and cell death, writes Viviane Callier

The immune system has a tough job: When a tiny virus invades one of our cells, that cell must detect it and, within minutes, decide what to do. If the cell quickly self-destructs, that will prevent the virus from spreading throughout the body. But such a response to a false alarm will mean the cell will die unnecessarily.

Now, researchers have discovered that a special group of about 100 immune proteins hangs out inside every cell in the body, where these proteins do nothing but wait. Then, when a virus breaks in, it seeds a crystal, and the proteins instantly clump around it, forming a scaffold for enzymes known as caspases to activate and immediately initiate cell death. (The caspases must be brought together to kill the cell; it is their proximity to one another that activates them.) The kind of cell death caused by this mechanism is called pyroptosis, and unlike apoptosis (programmed cell death), it triggers inflammation.

"What we found, in essence, is that the cells are literally waiting to die all the time," says Randal Halfmann, an associate investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Halfmann oversaw the work, which was published in *eLife* in September.

Historically, scientists have studied proteins' folded structures to understand their function individually. But "we're in this explosion of discovery, realising that these individual molecules that we've studied so well are coming together into larger structures that are not bound by membranes," says D Allan Drummond, a molecular biologist at the University of Chicago, who was not involved in the study. This new understanding has prompted "new kinds of ways of thinking about



cellular function and decision-making by cells, new ways for them to store energy, and so on."

The study, which was done in living yeast cells and human cell lines, illustrates how proteins act collectively by forming a crystal that gathers caspases together to activate the cell death program and enable the cell to make a rapid life-or-death decision.

It also provides an example of how solid protein clumps, which are typically believed to be pathological (such as in Alzheimer's disease), can be essential to function: "To be useful, their whole job is to be this irreversible, downhill, spontaneous reaction that allows the cell to make decisions that include killing the cell," Drummond says.

The rapidity of the decision is key: if the cell relies on more traditional signalling pathways that activate genes in response to an infection, an agile virus could take control of the cell's protein-making machinery before the cell has a chance to respond.

Although structural biologists had studied this kind of protein behaviour in test tubes, "what was really lacking was: 'Does this really happen in the cell?'" says Bostjan Kobe, a protein structural biologist at the University of Queensland in Australia. "That's why [Halfmann's] work was really interesting—because it came at the problem from a completely different angle."

Halfmann's team observed that these immune proteins typically remain soluble but that, given enough time—over a lifespan—they will spontaneously crystallise, misfiring in a way that leads to cell death and inflammation. "What this means is that if you wait long enough, every cell will die via this mechanism because even if a virus doesn't get into the cell, it will happen at some frequency spontaneously," Halfmann says. (Of course, cells can die by other mechanisms, such as apoptosis, first.)

Halfmann's team quantified the driving force for these proteins to crystallise in different human cell types and found that their concentration is correlated with the rate of cell turnover in our body. For example, some blood cells are replaced every few days, whereas neurons often last a lifetime. The faster cells normally turn over, the more of these immune proteins they tend to have, suggesting that this process of spontaneous activation might be responsible for killing them.

These results suggest that these immune proteins may contribute to the low-grade inflammation that accompanies ageing. Finding ways to prevent proteins from crystallising could potentially extend cells' lifespans and reduce ageing-related inflammation, but the trade-off would be a weaker immune system, Halfmann says.

This feature of the immune system is very ancient. It is found in the earliest animals, such as sponges, and it even exists in bacteria, from which we likely inherited it. It is specifically found in some bacteria that live in tight-knit communities. "If you're a single-celled organism, there's no drive to kill yourself," Halfmann says. "But when you're part of a community and you're compromised by a phage [a virus that kills bacteria], then it absolutely makes sense to kill yourself because you're related to everybody around you, and that is where these proteins seem to have evolved."

THE NEWYORK TIMES

DID YOU KNOW?

## Mosquitoes in Iceland: A sign of rising temperatures?

For the first time in history, mosquitoes have been discovered in Iceland. Iceland, one of the few places in the world to be free of mosquitoes, recorded its first sighting of the insect this month. Scientists have announced the discovery of three mosquitoes, two females and one male.

The discovery was made by insect enthusiast Björn Hjaltason in his garden in the town of Kjós. "I could tell right away that this was something I had never seen before," he told the Icelandic newspaper Morgunblaðið.

He said: "Three specimens of Culiseta annulata were found in Kiðafell, Kjós, two females and one male. They were all collected from wine ropes during wine roping aimed at attracting moths."

The species is cold-resistant and can survive Icelandic conditions by sheltering in basements and barns during winter.

Björn Hjaltason found the mosquitoes and posted about it on the Facebook group Insects in Iceland. "At dusk on October 16, I caught sight of a strange fly on a red wine ribbon," Björn said, referring to the trap he uses to attract insects. "I immediately suspected what was going on and quickly collected the fly. It was a female." He caught two more and sent them to the science institute, where they were identified.

The Culiseta annulata species is native to much of the Eastern Hemisphere, ranging from North Africa to northern Siberia. It appears well adapted to colder climates, primarily because adults can ride out the cold in sheltered places, Alfreðsson said. "This allows them to withstand long, harsh winters when temperatures drop below freezing."

Mosquitoes, like all arthropods, are cold-blooded creatures and cannot regulate their body temperature in response to the surrounding environment. As a result, temperature is an important driver of mosquito activity, and most species thrive in warmer weather.

That is why global warming has enabled the insect to proliferate. Several studies have shown that with rising temperatures, mosquitoes can invade and thrive in habitats that once represented hostile environments.

Scientists have long predicted that mosquitoes could establish themselves in Iceland, as there are plentiful breeding habitats such as marshes and ponds. Many species will be unable to survive the harsh climate, however.

But Iceland is warming at four times the rate of the rest of the northern hemisphere. Glaciers have been collapsing, and fish from warmer, southern climes, such as mackerel, have been found in the country's waters.

Matthías Alfreðsson, an entomologist at the Natural Science Institute of Iceland, confirmed the findings there. He identified the insects himself after they were sent to him by a citizen scientist.

While it is yet to be confirmed how mosquitoes arrived in Iceland, scientists have said that rising temperatures are making Iceland more hospitable to the insects. Scientists warn it's more than an oddity; it's another sign of a warming planet, as even the coldest places yield to change.

In 2025, the country broke several records for its high temperatures. Iceland rarely experiences highs of more than 20 degrees Celsius in May, and when it does, those heatwaves will last for around two to three days. Iceland also saw its hottest ever day in May, with temperatures reaching 26.6 degrees Celsius at Eglisstaðir Airport, the report said.

**-Surendra Pai**

## IN NUMBERS

**90,712**

The total number of polling stations for the Assembly elections has been increased to 90,712, up from 77,462 during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The increase comes after the Election Commission decided that there shall be a maximum of 1,200 electors in a polling station.

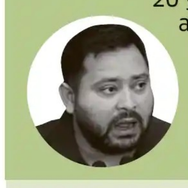
## COUNTER

"The opposition had objected to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar... because they want to form a government on the basis of votes of infiltrators. The NDA-led government will never allow that to happen... They (the opposition) stand totally exposed now, as they have no evidence to back their claims.

**JP Nadda**
BJP president

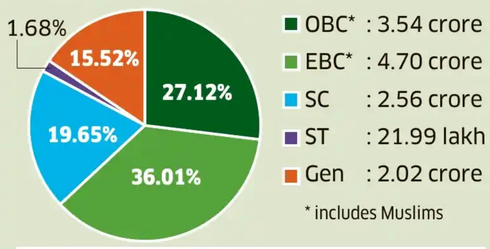
V/S

As a Bihari, I feel anguished that my state is poor, and unemployment, corruption and criminal activities are on the rise. Despite 20 years of NDA rule in Bihar and 11 years at the Centre, the state's per capita income is the lowest and farmers remain poor.



**Tejashwi Yadav**
RJD leader

## BIHAR CASTE CALCULUS




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OBC** | | |
| Yadavs: | 1.86 crore | 14.26% |
| Kushwahas: | 55.05 lakh | 4.21% |
| Kurmis: | 37.22 lakh | 2.87% |
| **EBC** | | |
| Teli: | 36,77,491 | 2.81% |
| Mallah: | 34,10,093 | 2.60% |
| Dhanuk: | 27,96,605 | 2.13% |
| Brahmins: | 47.81 lakh | 3.65% |
| Rajputs: | 45.10 lakh | 3.45% |
| Bhumihar: | 37.50 lakh | 2.86% |

**Source:** Bihar Caste Survey 2023

## Poll diary

### Prashant Kishor backs rebel BJP candidate in Gopalganj

Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Friday announced his support for rebel BJP candidate Anup Kumar Srivastava in Bihar's Gopalganj, alleging that his own nominee Shashi Shekhar Sinha withdrew from the contest under pressure from the saffron party.

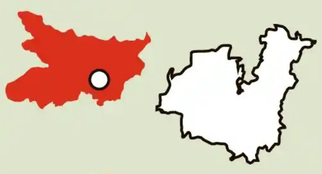
### Bihar will celebrate real Deepavali on Nov 14: Shah

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that Bihar will celebrate "real Deepavali" on November 14, when the RJD and its alliance partners face a humiliating defeat. Shah, addressing a rally in Bihar's Siwan district, slammed the Lalu Prasad-led party for fielding Osama Shahab.

### 'I.N.D.I.A hungry for power, NDA eager to serve people'

The Opposition INDIA bloc is only interested in gaining power in the poll-bound Bihar, while the BJP-led NDA is eager to serve the people of the Hindi heartland state, Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

## CONSTITUENCY WATCH



**TARAPUR (MUNGER DISTRICT)**

**SAMRAT CHOUDHARY**
BJP
2020: Did not contest

**ARUN SAH**
RJD
2021 Bypoll: Runner-up

## MEET THE CANDIDATE

### Ramkripal Yadav

Party: **BJP**
Constituency: **Danapur**

Ramkripal Yadav is the BJP candidate from Patna's Danapur Assembly segment. Yadav, once a close associate of Lalu Prasad, joined the BJP ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls when the RJD chief decided to field his daughter Misha Bharti from the seat represented by Ram Kripal. He was later inducted into the Modi government and served as minister of state for rural development. Ramkripal started his political career as the deputy mayor of Patna. He is a five-time LS MP. Three of the five parliamentary elections he won on the RJD ticket and twice on the BJP symbol. He, however, lost the 2024 elections to Misha Bharti by over 85,000 votes. His nomination is being seen as part of the BJP's political messaging in central Bihar after the party has decided to drop Naval Kirshore Yadav, the assembly speaker and a party veteran in the state capital.

# Maithili Thakur: Folk singer on a different track

The celebrity-turned-politician is the youngest leader in the Bihar poll fray

**ABHAY KUMAR**
PATNA

Some call her a youth icon. The BJP calls her the "cultural voice of Mithila".

One of the youngest candidates in the Bihar Assembly elections, celebrated folk singer-turned-politician Maithili Thakur turned 25 this July, becoming eligible to contest an election, and then joined the saffron brigade.

Maithili, who is receiving bouquets and brickbats in equal measure since being nominated as the BJP candidate from Alinagar in Darbhanga, is unfazed by the criticism.

Like a seasoned politician, she talks of empowering women and the youth, but also wants to push the Hindutva agenda her party pursues.

"We would like to rename Alinagar as Sitanagar as a tribute to Goddess Sita," she said during her campaign, well aware of the fact that her constituency, which came into being following delimitation in 2008, is dominated by Brahmins, Yadavs, and Muslims.

Born in a Brahmin family in Darbhanga's Benippati, Maithili this week released her new album "Chhath ki mahima" on the occasion of the most revered festival here: Chhath.

"This album has folk songs and tales and is very close to my heart," she said during her poll campaign.

She has been pitted against the RJD's Vinod Mishra, who was the runner-up during the 2020 Assembly polls.

Mishra, also a Brahmin, speaks highly of Maithili. He has said she was a great artist.

"I listen to her folk songs. And will keep admiring her as an artist. But politics is a different ballgame," said Mishra, who lost the 2020 Assembly polls by a thin margin of 3,000 votes to Mishrilal Yadav of the VIP from Alinagar.

Though Mishrilal joined the BJP after his win, the saffron camp denied him a ticket and fielded Maithili, who was earlier a brand ambassador of the Election Commission and has won several government awards.

"I express my sincere gratitude to the Central and state leadership of the BJP for reposing faith in me and fielding me from Alinagar, where I will continue to serve with my full strength and complete dedication and commitment to the people," she tweeted in Hindi soon after filing her nomination papers.

The Alinagar constituency has seen three Assembly elections till now: 2010, 2015, and 2020.

The RJD's towering leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui won it in 2010 and 2015, while the VIP's Mishrilal Yadav romped home in 2020.

It would be interesting to see whether the BJP wrests this seat riding on Maithili's popularity in what is expected to be a close fight.

# VIP as MY-BAAP? Lalu's EBC outreach signals shift

The Sahani move aims to stitch together a wider caste quilt ahead of polls

**SUMIT PANDE**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

By agreeing to project Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani as the deputy CM candidate of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, Lalu Yadav's RJD has sought to expand the catchment area of its traditional Muslim-Yadav (MY) vote bank to stitch a larger MY-BAAP umbrella coalition by reaching out to other marginalised groups like Bahujan (Dalits), Adivasi (Tribals), and Pichda (Backward, especially Extremely Backward classes).

The arithmetic behind the RJD's projection of Sahani as Tejashwi Yadav's deputy can be traced to the Bihar Caste Survey conducted in 2022, when the RJD and the JD(U) were in alliance. The data showed that the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (also called Other Backward Classes, or OBCs) constitute the largest segment of the state population, at 63%.

The devil, however, lies in the details of sub-categorising the OBC chunk. The survey pooled this social bloc into two separate blocs — Backward Classes or BCs, comprising 30 castes like Yadavs, Kurmis, Bania and Koeris/Kushwaha, who are believed to have benefited relatively more from the Mandal empowerment than the group of 112 Extremely Backward Castes that make up almost 36% of Bihar's population.

Both BC and EBC figures culled out by the caste survey include Muslim communities in the OBC list. Now, of the state's 17.7% Muslim population, almost 4.5% is upper caste. The remaining 13% is distributed among BC and EBC lists.

This 17.7% Muslims, added to 14.26% Yadavs, is the RJD's core support base. Supported by the CPI(ML) Liberation, which has worked among landless communities in southern Bihar, this number crosses 35 percentage points.

The non-Yadav castes in the BC group (Kurmi, Bania and Koeri/Kushwaha) that make up 13% have been with the JD(U). Even if added to the BJP's 10.5% Hindu upper caste vote, the number is still 10 percentage points less than the RJD's MY combine.

To draw parity with the RJD, the NDA brings on board 5.3% Dushadh represented by Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ramvilas), the largest chunk of the Schedule Caste votes, and a slice of the poorest among the Dalits (Mahadalits) represented by Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM.

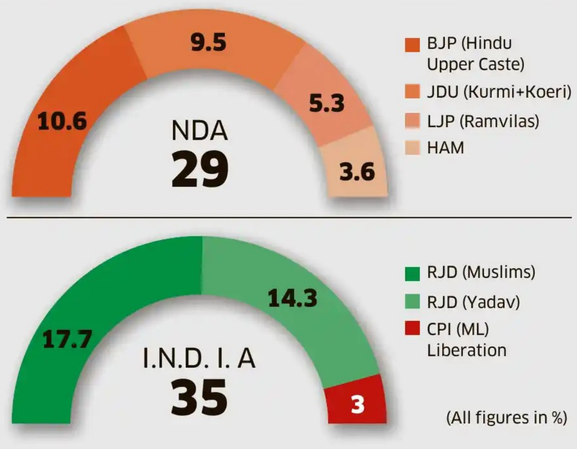
If one assumes that a majority of the 13% Muslim backward classes are aligned with the RJD, nearly 25% of the Hindu Extremely Backward Caste (EBC) votes remain up for grabs.

After coming to power in 2005, Nitish Kumar, through legislation and welfare schemes, won over a large section of the EBC to preside over a strong anti-Yadav backward bloc.

By anointing Mukesh Sahani from the Nishad community — an EBC caste — as its deputy CM face, the RJD and the I.N.D.I.A bloc alliance have tried to disrupt the NDA's winning combination of two decades. The larger message is, Yadavs, the dominant backward caste in Bihar, are willing to offer leadership positions to the EBCs.

The outcome of the Bihar polls will reveal to what extent the RJD succeeded in convincing the EBC castes of its intent of sharing political power with numerically smaller but cumulatively significant Mandal castes.

**Bihar Elections: Caste in Polls**




**Kingmakers:** Hindu EBCs 25% Population | According to some estimates, almost **60% EBCs** in 2020 voted for the NDA

Source: Bihar Caste Survey 2023

# BJP woos EBC voters with Karpoori homage

PM Modi pays tributes to former Bihar CM, visits his birthplace

**AMRITA MADHUKALYA**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched the BJP's election campaign in Bihar with a visit to Karpoorigram, the birthplace of former chief minister Karpoori Thakur, where he paid tribute to the socialist leader.

This isn't the first time the BJP has sought to celebrate Thakur, who championed caste-based reservations in Bihar.

With the Bihar elections around the corner, why is the BJP now seeking to appropriate his legacy, especially when the Congress has accused the BJP (then Jan Sangh) and the RSS of abusing Thakur during the 1970s, when he introduced reservations? The answer lies in Bihar's caste arithmetic.

Thakur, who hailed from the Nai community, was a mentor to some of Bihar's tallest backward caste leaders, including former chief minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal founder Lalu Prasad Yadav, current Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar, and Ramvilas Paswan, whose son Chirag is now a key NDA constituent. Thakur is widely regarded as the most prominent leader from Bihar's Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs).

In January 2024, months ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the NDA posthumously awarded him the Bharat Ratna. The saffron party marked his birth centenary in a big way, while the JD(U) sent his son Ram Nath Thakur to the Rajya Sabha.

The EBCs, as per the state's recent caste survey, constitute 36% of the population.

PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to former Bihar CM and Bharat Ratna awardee Karpoori Thakur on Friday. PTI

## Nitish will not be CM if NDA wins: Tejashwi

**PATNA, PTI:** Asserting that Bihar is still a 'poor' state despite the 20 years of rule by the JD(U)-led NDA, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Friday claimed that CM Nitish Kumar will not be made the chief minister if the ruling alliance is again voted to power.

Yadav also alleged that Kumar has been hijacked by the BJP, and two people from Gujarat, ostensibly referring to PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, are 'controlling' Bihar.

At a rally at Simri Bakhtiyarpur, he said, "Amit Shah has made it clear that elected legislators will decide the CM of Bihar after elections."

# I.N.D.I.A to unveil joint manifesto on October 28

**SHEMIN JOY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc is likely to unveil its joint manifesto on October 28, the day of the Chhath festival, while one of its constituents, CPI(ML)L, is all set to release its individual manifesto two days earlier.

BIHAR VOTES

Sources said the joint manifesto is expected to feature at least 25 major points, including announcements already made, such as permanent jobs and a Rs 30,000 monthly salary for 'Jeevika Didis', permanent employment for contractual workers, land for the landless poor, and loan waivers for women, among others.

In late September, the I.N.D.I.A bloc had already announced a 10-point manifesto for Extremely Backward Classes and specific promises for women. These and more are expected to be included in the joint manifesto as well.

Sources said the I.N.D.I.A leaders decided to release their manifesto during the Chhath festival as they wish to project their electoral promises as solid commitments to the people.

The joint manifesto is also likely to propose hostels in sub-divisions, colleges for OBCs in blocks, and the implementation of the D Bandyopadhyaya Commission's recommendations on land reforms, among other measures.

The release of the joint manifesto will be another occasion for all alliance leaders to share a common platform for the second time in less than a week. On Thursday, they held a joint press conference to display unity amid lingering differences over seat sharing.

Separately, on October 26, CPI(ML)L sources said the party will release its standalone manifesto in Bhojpur district, where its Bihar unit first took shape, following the 'Sankalp Yatra'.

## Label AI-generated content: EC to parties

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Amid complaints of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated content being used to mislead voters, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday directed parties to display labels such as "AI-Generated", "Digitally Enhanced", or "Synthetic Content" covering 10% of the display area.

It also barred any content misrepresenting any person's identity, appearance, or voice without their consent.

With the Bihar election campaign gathering pace, the EC also said parties would have to take down misleading digitally-enhanced content within three hours of being served a notice, and also maintain internal records of all AI-generated campaign materials for verification when sought by the poll body.

The EC's directions, which came into effect immediately, mirrored some of the proposed provisions in the draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology two days ago for public comments.

The EC intervention came after it was brought to its notice that the "misuse of hyperrealistic synthetically generated information is contaminating the level-playing field in the electoral arena".

ALLIANCE ACROBATICS

# Back from the brink: Sahani's political re-entry as dyCM face

**SHEMIN JOY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A week ago, Mukesh Sahani was almost at the exit door of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, miffed with the RJD for failing to clarify the seats his party could contest in the Bihar elections. Walking out of an RJD-led alliance at the last minute was nothing new for Sahani. He had done the same five years ago.

Cold political calculations prompted the Opposition alliance — battling internal strife over seats — to make a surprise announcement on Thursday, naming Sahani as its deputy chief ministerial face, despite earlier signals that the RJD wasn't inclined to do so.

Sources said one of the reasons for yielding to Sahani's pressure tactics was the 2020 election numbers, when the Grand Alliance fell short by 15 seats, with a gap of just around 12,700 votes. With the boatmen-fishermen 'Nishad' community, comprising around 20 subcastes, having a vote base in northern and inland Bihar, I.N.D.I.A managers felt it was foolish to give it on a platter to rivals.

Mukesh Sahani

**FULL CIRCLE**

- Sahani was on the verge of exiting I.N.D.I.A bloc over seat tensions with RJD
- Despite initial reluctance, the alliance named him deputy CM face
- Nishad community's vote base makes Sahani too strategic to ignore
- CPI(ML)L's Dipankar mediated between Sahani, RJD and Cong

On Wednesday evening, sources said, Sahani, who was smarting from the RJD's snub, turned up the heat within the alliance by demanding to be named deputy CM face along with Tejashwi Yadav, who would be named the CM face.

Sahani argued that he had compromised a lot for the unity of the alliance, scaling down his demand of deputy chief ministership and 60 seats to 30, and settling for 15 seats and an MLC seat. His non-insistence on deputy chief ministership while settling for 15 seats was a ploy to use it at a later stage.

Known as the 'Son of Mallah', who lost both elections he fought, Sahani insisted that such an announcement — a bone of contention in 2020 too, that led to his walkout from the RJD alliance and entry into the NDA — would send a positive signal to the Nishad community to which he belongs. He upped the ante by linking his presence at the joint press conference to being officially named the deputy CM face.

The RJD, wary of Sahani since his 2020 manoeuvre, was not enthusiastic. But as Sahani laid out his bargaining chips, CPI(ML)L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya played the peacemaker. He held talks with RJD and Congress leaders, ultimately leaving the decision to RJD's discretion.

On Thursday morning, the party gave its stamp of approval. "The decision was RJD's as it felt there was more to gain than to lose," said a senior leader.

# Maha doctor ends life, accuses police officer of rape in note

## Kin alleges political pressure, says she was asked to change post-mortem reports

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a young doctor died by suicide at a government hospital in Maharashtra's Satara district, accusing a police officer, in a note on her palm, of sexually and mentally harassing her for months.

The 28-year-old victim was the medical officer of the Phaltan sub-district hospital, nearly 70 km from Satara town. The accused, Sub-Inspector Gopal Badane, who has since been placed under suspension, is absconding.

Rattled by criticism from the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has asked Superintendent of Police Tushar Doshi to probe and submit a report.

**"Police Inspector Gopal Badane is the reason I died. He raped me four times. He subjected me to rape, mental and physical abuse for more than five months"**

Demanding the arrest of the accused, the family members of the deceased doctor, who hails from Beed district, have refused to take her body for the last rites.

In a note written on her left palm, the victim named Badane of physical and mental abuse, and said his constant harassment forced her to take her own life.

"Police Inspector Gopal Badane is the reason I died. He raped me four times. He subjected me to rape, mental and physical abuse for more than five months," the note said. Besides, she has also named another person, Prashant Bankar, for the reason of ending her life.

Maharashtra State Commission for Women Chairperson Rupali Chakankar has sought a report from the Satara police. "A case has been registered at the Phaltan City police station under Sections 64(2)(n) and 108 of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita. A search team has been dispatched to arrest the absconding accused, Gopal Badne and Prashant Bankar," she said.

### 'Political pressure'

However, the uncle of the deceased has alleged that "she was being asked to alter post-mortem reports". "There was a lot of police and political pressure on her to make wrong mortem reports," the victim's cousin said.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help*)

# Tamil Nadu, Andhra brace for heavy rains as cyclone looms

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Promising further rains for Tamil Nadu, which has already been battered by the northeast monsoon, a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm on October 27. Though the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) did not give further details about the cyclone's movements, independent weather bloggers said the weather system will most likely make its landfall in Andhra Pradesh.

Three other weather systems in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea will bring more rains to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka over the next few days. The NEM, which is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu which made its onset only last week, has already intensified dumping rains across the state – in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Friday, Pallipet in Tiruvallur district recorded the highest at 15 cm, followed by Nalumukku in Tirunelveli at 12 cm.

The IMD said under the influence of Thursday's Upper Air Cyclonic Circulation over Southeast Bay of Bengal & adjoining South Andaman Sea, a Low Pressure Area has formed over Southeast Bay of Bengal at 0530 hrs IST on Friday.

"It is likely to move west-northwestwards, concentrate into a Depression over Southeast and adjoining Central Bay of Bengal by 25th, intensify into a Deep Depression by 26th and further into a Cyclonic Storm over Southwest & adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal by 27th morning," the bulletin said.

Under the influence of this weather system, several parts of TN and Andhra Pradesh are expected to receive rainfall from Saturday to Tuesday.

Independent weather blogger Pradeep John said the weather system will mostly intensify into a cyclone, but will mostly go to Andhra Pradesh.

# Zubeen Garg death probe: Singer's wife, sister meet SIT officials

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Following demonstrations by political factions and community groups, Garima, the wife of Zubeen Garg, along with his sister Palme Borthakur, met with officials from the SIT investigating the renowned singer's unexpected death in Singapore on September 19.

This was Garima's first appearance before the SIT here, and it was a day after two officers returned from Singapore.

"We talked to Zubeen's wife and sister about the investigation," MP Gupta, the head of the SIT, told reporters.

He said more than 70 people, including Zubeen's friends and members of Assam Association, Singapore, have been questioned by the SIT so far.

### Spot visit in Singapore

Gupta and another officer visited Singapore between October 20 and 21, visited the spot where Zubeen died and held meetings with investigators there to exchange details of the case.

"We sought the statement of the yacht pilot and one member of the Assam Association Singapore. As they are citizens of Singapore, it will have to be done through a legal process. They have assured us to provide us with the statements in the next 10 days," Gupta said.

The post-mortem conducted in Singapore was also shared with the SIT through the Indian High Commission, he added.

# Victims and perpetrators of terrorism cannot be equated: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Friday cited Pakistan's attempts to protect at the UN Security Council the terror group that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack to point out that the global body's work has been "gridlocked" in the absence of urgent reforms.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also criticised those equating victims and perpetrators of terrorism in the name of global strategy, in an apparent reference to the hyphenation of India and Pakistan in the context of the dastardly terror strike.

Jaishankar was speaking at an event that celebrated the 80th anniversary of the United Nations (UN). In his remarks, the external affairs minister said "all is not well" with the UN as its debates have become "increasingly polarised" and its working "visibly gridlocked".

"Any meaningful reform is obstructed using the reform process itself," he said, adding that sustaining the UN even while seeking its re-invention is clearly a major challenge before the world.

"Few examples are more telling about the challenges facing the UN than its response to terrorism. When a sitting Security Council member openly protects the very 320 organisation that claims responsibility for the barbaric terror attack such as at Pahalgam, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism," Jaishankar asked.

Though Jaishankar didn't directly name Pakistan, it was abundantly clear from his remarks that he was referring to that country.

"Similarly, if victims and perpetrators of terrorism are equated in name of global strategy, how much more cynical can world get. When self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from the sanctioning process, what does it say for sincerity of those involved," he said.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆COMICS◆

### Blondie

SELF-SERVE KIOSKS ARE ANNOYING
TO ORDER YOUR SANDWICH JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT
TO TALK TO REAL LIVE HUMAN BEINGS!
MEAT?
TOPPINGS?
SAUCES?
TAP TAP
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, HUH?
I THOUGHT, HONEY... I'M ALMOST OVER BEING ANNOYED!

### Hagar The Horrible

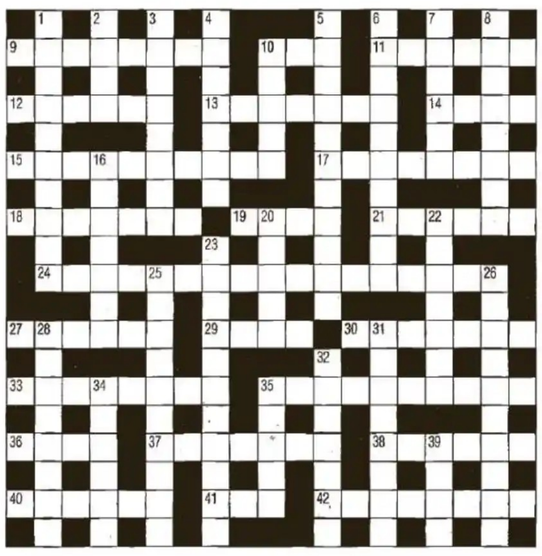
### Beetle Bailey

### Peanuts

YOU FOUND IT!
HOW ABOUT THAT? YOU'RE SURE THIS IS IT, HUH?
JUST THINK...AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FOUND IT...
THE LAST STRAW!

### Marvin

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4011



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
9 It's humiliating to be ordered to alight (8)
10 The sun fish is tailless (3)
11 Pull a number backwards and forwards (6)
12 She's knocking drink back at "The Galloping Nag" (6)
13 He's coming down - for the day! (7)
14 Nonsense! It's almost too quiet! (4)
15 A slight shake of the head in it will reveal something (4,1,5)
17 Pretend to be in front? How could you! (3,5)
18 Means to get the daughter into tennis-playing (7)
19 Bringing the guns back, he hopes to make a quick profit (4)
21 I met the crooked Denis in prison (6)
24 Acknowledging one was wrong to have taken the seat? (8,9)
27 Concealed inside, the bird did damage (6)
29 It would be prudent to read the letters aloud (4)
30 Cocktail ingredients (7)
33 Making speed from the stronghold (8)
35 Only second-hand goods, but we're used to that (7,3)
36 The front and the base (4)
37 Cold, in a Gallic sort of way (7)
38 It takes an hour one way - truly (6)
40 It's sheer nonsense taking time off (6)
41 I say! Look! (3)
42 Don't notice that you can see from above (8)

**DOWN**
1 Find out how many employees there are and how they're voting (5,5)
2 Said it's an irritation: the vet can treat it (4)
3 Added up to, when one had carried the whole lot inside (8)
4 Acting the part of the Western traveller? (2,5)
5 Feminine lingerie - for the junior miss (4,2,1,4)
6 Not many between three and six (4,2,4)
7 Twig it's not your own hair (6)
8 Supposed to have been overbold (8)
10 Hours at work that go very quickly (5)
16 The reactionary I'd heard about (3-4)
20 Signs of parasites (5)
22 Environment in which one's working as a hairdresser (7)
23 How you got both rattled quickly? (2,3,6)
25 You're soon going to get fed up hearing it (6,4)
26 The blue area on the weather map? (10)
28 Can I run into trouble working? (2,6)
31 Increase, breaking the hinge (8)
32 Isn't prepared to invest the lot, anyhow, in an English export (7)
34 To begin with, mother has to provide food (6)
35 It would be simple to put one in the hub (5)
39 Backing, put a pound on for her (4)

**ACROSS**
9 Fragile (8)
10 Also (3)
11 Coyly (6)
12 Take (6)
13 Feline (7)
14 Wicked (4)
15 Skilled (10)
17 Plant (8)
18 Contrived (7)
19 Therefore (4)
21 Rotten (6)
24 Fleeing (6,2,4,5)
27 Infuriate (6)
29 Former (4)
30 Suppose (7)
33 Exaggerated (8)
35 End (10)
36 Insects (4)
37 Stop (7)
38 Material (6)
40 Shed (4-2)
41 Child (3)
42 Shrink (8)

**DOWN**
1 Fruit (10)
2 Conceal (4)
3 Fragment (8)
4 Answered (7)
5 Publicly (3,3,2,3)
6 Nonsense (10)
7 Entry (6)
8 Height (8)
10 Fish (5)
16 Stamped (7)
20 Perch (5)
22 Attires (7)
23 Anyhow (2,3,6)
25 Fool (10)
26 Sleepiness (10)
28 Lent (8)
31 Germane (8)
32 Readily available (2,5)
34 Rebellion (6)
35 Swindle (5)
39 Entice (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12273**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 1, Trial 6, Spock 9, Martial 10, Salad 11, Ma-rr-y 12, Happ-y 13, Colonel 15, Pea 17, Anon 18, Geral-d 19, Stirs 20, Clutch 22, Me-re 24, Ham 25, Pa-role-d 26, Treat 27, Droo-p 28, BA's-in 29, General 30, C-le-ar 31, Reins.
**DOWN:** 2, Reason 3, Amazon 4, Lad 5, Steal 6, S-amp-les 7, Play 8, Ca-R-mel 12, Heath 13, Catch 14, Locum 15, Panel 16, Added 18, Great 19, Scarper 21, Laurel 22, Mor-Al-e 23, Region 25, Pared 26, To-ga 28, Bar.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 1, Abets 6, Punch 9, Haricot 10, Start 11, Ranch 12, Perch 13, Berated 15, Toe 17, Arid 18, Anchor 19, Stone 20, Events 22, Hero 24, Dot 25, Widower 26, Rebel 27, Eerie 28, Aster 29, Startle 30, Ashes 31, Edges.
**DOWN:** 2, Better 3, Thread 4, Sat 5, Fined 6, Porcine 7, Utah 8, Cuckoo 12, Pelts 13, Bared 14, Rivet 15, Threw 16, Error 18, Anvil 19, Streets 21, Vowels 22, Housed 23, Recede 25, Weary 26, Rise 28, Ale.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PHEDT
ONARP
GREDDE
RUSBDA

Maybe if I use Yukon Gold, it will run smoother.
Is it supposed to make that sound?
4/16
HE INVENTED A CAR ENGINE THAT RAN ON POTATOES, BUT IT JUST ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Answer here:* " " (Answers Monday)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: HOVER ALBUM TOMATO INDUCT
Answer: The mouse was spotted stealing some cheese because his cousin — RATTED HIM OUT

## ◆SU-DO-KU-6734◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | | | | 7 | 8 |
| | 6 | | 8 | 3 | | 9 | | 5 |
| 5 | | | | | 7 | | 6 | |
| | | | | | 9 | 5 | | |
| 3 | 7 | | | 1 | | | 9 | 6 |
| | | 6 | 4 | | | | | |
| | 3 | | 9 | | | | | 2 |
| 8 | | 2 | | 4 | 1 | | 5 | |
| 6 | 1 | | | | 5 | | | |

very hard

**SOLUTION TO 6733**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S1 R1 I1 T1 N1 S1 P3 | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| M3 R1 E1 R1 S1 O1 E1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 2 |
| T1 R1 V4 N1 G2 A1 A1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| A1 S1 R1 R1 C3 E1 E1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P3 E1 R1 M3 E1 D2 | RACK 1 = | 17 |
| G2 I1 M3 L1 E1 T1 S1 | RACK 2 = | 60 |
| S1 T1 R1 A1 T1 U1 M3 | RACK 3 = | 68 |
| S1 O1 O1 T1 H4 E1 S1 | RACK 4 = | 80 |
| PAR SCORE 145-155 | JUDD'S TOTAL | 225 |

## HITORI-3188

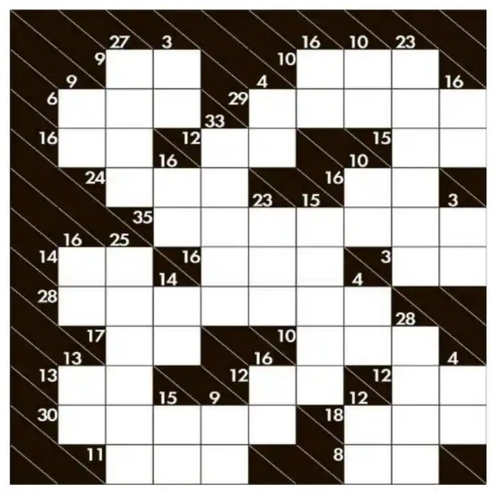
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 |

**SOLUTION TO 3187**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 8 | ■ | 1 | ■ | 5 | 3 | ■ |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | ■ | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | ■ | 3 | 8 | 4 | ■ | 7 |
| 3 | ■ | 1 | 8 | 6 | ■ | 7 | 4 |
| ■ | 7 | 6 | 4 | ■ | 8 | 5 | ■ |
| 1 | ■ | 7 | ■ | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | ■ | 8 | ■ |
| ■ | 5 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 7 | 4 | 6 |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3188



**SOLUTION TO 3187**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3715

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | 8 | | 6 | 2 | | | ■ |
| | ■ | 3 | 4 | | | 5 | ■ | |
| | 7 | 9 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| | | | | ■ | | | 8 | |
| | | | ■ | | 6 | | | |
| | | ■ | | | | ■ | 3 | 1 |
| | ■ | | 7 | 1 | 5 | | ■ | 8 |
| ■ | | 7 | | | | | 2 | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3714**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

# East London varsity strikes sector-first pact for Indian student welfare

## India–UK education ties strengthened through landmark collaboration

LONDON, PTI

The University of East London and the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK have signed a sector-first pact to establish a new model of collaboration, focused on the welfare, employability, and success of Indian students in Britain.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU), signed at the university's Stratford campus last week, creates a strategic framework to deliver inclusive initiatives and provide practical support to students — from before their arrival from India through to post-graduation.

With data showing that one in every 20 Indians choosing the UK for higher education selects UEL, the MoU is intended to serve as a blueprint for best practice in international student engagement.

"Internationally mobile Indian students make a hugely positive contribution to UEL and the wider UK community," said Professor Amanda Broderick, who signed the pact as UEL Vice-Chancellor.

"Our collaboration with NISAU builds on UEL's long-standing partnerships across India — from our research and innovation collaborations to our growing alumni network and our pioneering India Industry Advisory Board — all focused on preparing students for global success," she said.

The partnership builds upon the university's collaboration with some of the largest recruiters of UEL graduates — Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Cognizant, HSBC, Tech Mahindra, and Infosys — to co-design skills pathways and support graduate employability. "Together, we will work to ensure Indian students and graduates not only achieve academically but also feel a true sense of belonging during their time in the UK," said Sanam Arora, who signed the MoU as NISAU UK Chair.

"Aligned with the ambitions of the India–UK Vision 2035, it strengthens the people-to-people pillar of our nations' partnership — turning that vision into practical action that empowers students, enhances skills, and deepens collaboration across education and innovation," she said.

The India–UK Vision 2035 is the refreshed strategic roadmap agreed by both governments during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK in July, with education and skills identified as a key pillar of the bilateral partnership for the next decade.

UEL pointed to some of its pioneering India-focused research and social impact collaborations that are already delivering results, including Sugarcrete's partnership with Chemical System Technologies, which led to the construction of a school near Delhi and created jobs for women. UEL's ORNATE India and Naandi Foundation projects have also contributed to advancements in the healthcare sector.

# US calls for immediate formation of Gaza force

## Trump plan sees push for stabilisation in region

KIRYAT GAT (ISRAEL), AFP

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio voiced hope on Friday of soon forming an international force to police the ceasefire in Gaza, adding that Israel — which opposes the inclusion of Turkey — could veto participants.

Rubio visited Israel shortly after Vice President JD Vance as part of an all-out effort by the United States to safeguard the truce, including by preventing any major new Israeli offensive. The Secretary expressed optimism for a lasting end to the two-year Gaza war as he met Israeli, US, and other Western forces monitoring the ceasefire inside a vast converted warehouse in southern Israel.

The deal, spearheaded by President Donald Trump, calls for an international force to enter Gaza and oversee security following Israel's ceasefire with Hamas, whose unprecedented attack on 7 October 2023 sparked a war that has left much of Gaza in ruins.

Rubio said it was critical to create "the conditions for the stabilisation force to come in as soon as possible." He confirmed that Israel would have veto powers over the force's composition, amid reports that it has objected to participation by Turkey.

"There are a lot of countries that have offered to do it. Obviously, as you put together this force, it will have to be people that Israel is comfortable with," he said. Turkey, a Nato member with one of the region's strongest militaries, was the first Muslim-majority country to recognise Israel. However, under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has welcomed Hamas leaders and been a strong critic of Israel, accusing it of committing genocide in Gaza — an allegation Israel denies.

Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, has said it is ready to send troops to Gaza. The United Arab Emirates, which normalised ties with Israel in 2020, has already been involved in ceasefire monitoring.

Rubio said the United States may seek a UN mandate for the force, as some countries require the world body's approval to deploy troops. The Trump administration has distanced itself from much of the United Nations, and Rubio again rejected any future role for UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which Israel has long sought to sideline.

Some 200 US soldiers have deployed to the Civil-Military Coordination Centre, where uniformed troops from a dozen countries were seen mingling in the hastily-assembled rented space.

The Trump administration has been increasingly firm with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who in March brushed aside an earlier ceasefire and ordered a major new offensive.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visits the Civil-Military Coordination Center in southern Israel on Friday. REUTERS

Pro-Palestinian activists hold cutouts depicting US President Donald Trump's face to protest his upcoming visit to Malaysia to attend Asean Summit, at Kuala Lumpur, on Friday. REUTERS

# South Korea urges Trump to meet Kim during Asia trip

## The two leaders must not miss this chance, says unification minister

SEOUL, REUTERS

South Korea's unification minister on Friday called on US President Donald Trump to meet the leader of North Korea during his forthcoming visit to Asia, urging the two men to seize a rare chance for peace, Yonhap news agency reported.

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young, who is Seoul's top policymaker on ties between the divided Koreas, said Trump's trip to South Korea was an "opportunity from the heavens" that could help boost North Korea's global standing and its economy.

"The leaders of North Korea and the US must not miss this chance," Chung said. "They need to make a bold decision."

Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un three times during his previous term as president but failed to reach an agreement on ending Pyongyang's nuclear program because of differences on lifting sanctions and over how to scrap the North's nuclear facilities. Officials in Seoul, including South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, have been sceptical that a new meeting could take place next week, but welcomed the prospect of a breakthrough in diplomacy with Pyongyang if it were to happen.

Trump leaves Washington on Friday night for a five-day trip spanning Malaysia, Japan and South Korea. Chung said the visit was a chance to bypass preparations and coordination normally required for a meeting between the leaders of the two old foes that would otherwise make it very difficult for them to see each other.

### Xi likely to meet US Prez

China on Friday confirmed that President Xi Jinping will visit South Korea to attend the APEC Summit, during which he is expected to hold crucial talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump to ease escalating trade tensions, PTI reports from Beijing.

Earlier, the White House had announced that Trump and Xi would meet on October 30 in South Korea. At the invitation of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, Xi will attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju and pay a state visit from October 30 to November 1, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said.

# Japan PM vows faster military buildup amid regional tensions

**TOKYO, AP/PTI:** Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in her first major policy speech on Friday, pledged to further accelerate Japan's military buildup and spending and complete an early upgrade of the country's security strategy as tensions rise with China, North Korea and Russia.

Takaichi took office on Tuesday after being elected Japan's first female leader, ending months of political vacuum amid power struggles within her party following consecutive election defeats that cost the ruling coalition its majority in both houses of parliament.

Takaichi said on Friday her government would reach an annual military spending target of 2 per cent of gross domestic product by March, instead of by 2027 under the initial plan. She added that she would revise the national security strategy early and have it ready by the end of 2026. Japan has traditionally reviewed its strategy about once a decade, most recently in December 2022.

She said the early upgrade was necessary due to changes in the global security environment, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. "The free, open and stable international order that we were accustomed to is being violently shaken in the face of historic changes in the balance of power and intensifying geopolitical competition," Takaichi told parliament. "In the region around Japan, military activities and other actions by our neighbours — China, North Korea and Russia — are causing grave concern."

"Japan needs to proactively strengthen its fundamental defence capabilities," she added.

# Trump ends all Canada trade talks over 'fake' tariff ad

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump announced he's ending "all trade negotiations" with Canada because of a television ad opposing US tariffs that he said misstated the facts and called "egregious behaviour" aimed at influencing US court decisions.

The post on Trump's social media came on Thursday night after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he aims to double his country's exports to countries outside the US because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs. Trump's call for an abrupt end to negotiations could further inflame trade tensions that have already been building between the two neighbouring countries for months.

Trump posted, "The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is fake, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about tariffs."

"The ad was for $75,000. They only did this to interfere with the decision of the US Supreme Court, and other courts," Trump wrote. "Tariffs are very important to the national security and economy of the USA. Based on their egregious behaviour, all trade negotiations with Canada are hereby terminated."

Carney's office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The prime minister was set to leave Friday morning for a summit in Asia, while Trump is set to do the same Friday evening. Trump, a Republican, was still at it on Friday morning, furiously posting on his social media site that "Canada cheated and got caught!!!" on the tariff ad.

"The United States is wealthy, powerful, and nationally secure again, all because of tariffs!" he wrote in a separate post on his Truth Social account. "The most important case ever is in the United States Supreme Court. God bless America!!!"

# US to deploy aircraft carrier in Latin America as tensions rise

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Friday that the US military is deploying an aircraft carrier to the waters off South America, in the latest escalation and buildup of military forces in the region.

The US military has conducted its 10th strike on a suspected drug-running boat, Hegseth said earlier Friday, blaming the Tren de Aragua gang for operating the vessel and leaving six people dead in the Caribbean Sea.

In a social media post, Hegseth said the strike occurred overnight, and it marks the second time the Trump administration has tied one of its operations to the gang that originated in a Venezuelan prison. The pace of the strikes has quickened in recent days from one every few weeks when they first began to three this week, killing a total of at least 43 people since September.

Two of the most recent strikes were carried out in the eastern Pacific Ocean, expanding the area where the military has launched attacks and shifting to where much of the cocaine from the world's largest producers is smuggled.

In a 20-second black and white video of the strike posted to social media, a small boat can be seen apparently sitting motionless on the water when a long thin projectile descends, triggering an explosion. The video ends before the blast dies down enough for the remains of the boat to be seen again.

Hegseth said the strike happened in international waters and boasted that it was the first one conducted at night. "If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you like we treat Al-Qaeda," Hegseth said in the post.

### US intervention in Venezuela may inflame region: Brazil

Brazil fears that any US intervention in Venezuela could be very damaging for the whole of South America, AFP reports from Brasília. With US warships deployed in the Caribbean, "we cannot accept an outside intervention because it will trigger immense resentment," said Celso Amorim, aide to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. "It could inflame South America and lead to radicalisation of politics."

# China establishes new holiday to reinforce claim over Taiwan

**BANGKOK, AP/PTI:** China said Friday it is creating a new holiday called the Commemoration Day of Taiwan's Restoration, as part of its claims over the self-ruled island.

The standing committee of its rubber-stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, said the new holiday will mark October 25, the day in 1945 when Taiwan, then a Japanese colony, was handed over to an official of the then-Republic of China.

"Establishing Taiwan Restoration Day and holding commemorative activities at the national level will help highlight the indisputable historical fact that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China," said Shen Chunyao, director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee. The Republic of China was ruled by the Kuomintang Party, which later fled to the island of Taiwan from China in 1949 after losing in a civil war to the Communist Party. The Communists then established the People's Republic of China in 1949.

The Kuomintang Party ruled over Taiwan after the civil war, and remains one of two major political parties today. October 25 is already marked in Taiwan as a national holiday, under the name of Taiwan's Retrocession Day. Retrocession refers to giving a territory back to a country or government.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

The 23 Indian crew members of LPG tanker MT Falcon, who survived a recent Gulf of Aden fire incident, with Indian ambassador M Keivom (4th left) before leaving for home at the Djibouti Airport on Friday. INDIAN EMBASSY

### Trump admin to contest lawsuits challenging hike in H-1B visa fee

▸ The US government has said it will fight lawsuits aimed at blocking the $1,00,000 fee imposed on new H-1B visa petitions, asserting that "for far too long" the system was "spammed with fraud" and must be overhauled to prioritise American workers, PTI reports from Washington.

The remarks made by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt on Thursday came days after the US Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit last week against the move, describing it as "misguided policy" that could cripple American innovation and competitiveness. The Trump administration's decision to impose the new H-1B fee has also prompted legal action by unions, employers and religious organisations in a federal court in California. "The administration will fight these lawsuits in court," Leavitt told reporters. President Donald Trump's main priority, she said, has always been to put American workers first and to strengthen the visa system. "For far too long, the H-1B visa system has been spammed with fraud, and that's driven down American wages. So the President wants to refine this system, which is part of the reason he implemented these new policies," Leavitt said.

### Putin's envoy lands in US for talks

▸ Russia's top economic negotiator said Friday he had arrived in the United States for talks, two days after Washington imposed sanctions on Moscow's two biggest oil companies, AFP reports from Moscow.

The visit comes with increasing US frustration at Russian President Vladimir Putin and his refusal to agree to a ceasefire in the nearly four-year Ukraine war. Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump scrapped planned talks with Putin in Budapest, saying he did not want a "wasted" meeting. "Arrived in the US to continue the US-Russia dialogue -- visit planned a while ago based on an invitation from the US side," Putin's top economic envoy Kirill Dmitriev said on X.

Argentine President Javier Milei addresses a rally during the closing campaign for the upcoming legislative elections in Rosario on Thursday. AFP

### Meta breached digital rules: EU

▸ The European Union on Friday said Meta and TikTok had breached their transparency obligations after an investigation that could result in billions of dollars in fines, AP/PTI reports from Brussels.

The inquiry found both companies had violated the Digital Services Act, the EU's trailblazing digital rule book that imposes a set of strict requirements designed to keep internet users safe online, including making it easier to report counterfeit or unsafe goods or flag harmful or illegal content like hate speech, as well as a ban on ads targeted at children. "We are making sure platforms are accountable for their services, as ensured by EU law, towards users and society," said Henna Virkunnen, the EU's executive vice president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy.

### Picasso painting found in Spain

▸ Spanish police said on Friday that a Pablo Picasso painting that vanished en route to an exhibition has been found, raising doubts if it was ever loaded onto a transport truck, AFP reports from Madrid.

"Still Life with Guitar", a 1919 gouache and pencil work valued at around 600,000 euros, disappeared in early October while being transported from Madrid to the southern city of Granada. The artwork, which belongs to a private collector in the Spanish capital, was set to be displayed as part of a new exhibition at the CajaGranada Foundation. But when the truck's contents were unpacked on October 6, the curator noticed that the Picasso piece was missing. All items delivered by the truck had been under video surveillance since their arrival three days earlier, the CajaGranada Foundation said.

Actor George Clooney promotes his film "Jay Kelly" at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles on Thursday. REUTERS

# State clears Rs 27,607 crore investment proposals

## The 13 projects are expected to generate 8,704 jobs

BENGALURU, DHNS

The State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC), chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Friday, approved 13 investment proposals with a total investment of Rs 27,607.26 crore. These projects, once implemented, are expected to generate around 8,704 direct jobs.

The approvals include 11 new investment proposals and two additional investment proposals, according to Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil. While the new proposals involve an investment of Rs 27,228.51 crore, the expansion proposals account for Rs 378.75 crore.

Some of the major investment proposals are from SFX India Mfg Private Limited (Rs 9,298 crore, and 806 jobs); JSW JFE Electrical Steel Private Limited (Rs 7,102 crore, and 900 jobs); Reliance Consumer Products Limited (Rs 1,622 crore, and 1,200 jobs); Schneider Electric IT Business India Private Limited (Rs 1,520.75 crore, and 550 jobs); Toyota Industries Engine India Private Limited (Rs 1,330 crore, and 550 jobs); JSW Steel Limited (Rs 1,300.57 crore, and 271 jobs); Grasim Industries Limited (Rs 1,386 crore, and 203 jobs); Vayu Assets Private Limited (Rs 1,251 crore, and 1,912 jobs); QPIAI India Private Limited (Rs 1,136 crore, and 200 jobs); Tejas Networks Limited (Rs 542.19 crore, and 1,312 jobs).

Chief MInister Siddaramaiah addressing a press conference to announce the details of the State High Level Clearance Committee decisions in Bengaluru on Friday. Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil, (second from left) Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivkumar (right) and Chief Secretary shalini rajneesh (left) were present on the occasion.

The additional investment proposals are from Embassy Industrial Park (Rs 80 crore) and Balaji Wafers Private Limited (Rs 298.75 crore), totalling Rs 378.75 crore.

### KSDL pays record dividend

The state-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), on Friday, handed over a record Rs 135 crore dividend to the state government for the year 2024–25.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil and KSDL Chairman Appaji Nadagouda presented the cheque to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Speaking on the occasion, Patil said that KSDL achieved a turnover of Rs 1,700 crore and recorded a profit of Rs 451 crore in the last financial year. In line with regulations, 30% of the profit has been paid to the government as dividend. "This marks an all-time record for the company in terms of turnover, profit, and dividend," he remarked.

In 2022–23, KSDL had paid a dividend of Rs 54 crore to the state government, followed by Rs 108 crore in 2023–24. Compared to last year, this year's dividend reflects an increase of Rs 27 crore. "In the coming years, this amount is expected to rise further," Patil added.

# Blackstone pays $706 mn for 10% of Federal Bank

**BLOOMBERG:** Blackstone Inc will become the largest shareholder in India's Federal Bank Ltd. after injecting about $706 million into the lender.

Asia II Topco XIII Pte, an affiliate of the private equity giant, is paying Rs 6,197 crore for warrants that will result in a 9.99% stake in Federal Bank, the lender said in a statement Friday.

Federal Bank will issue 272.97 million warrants to Asia II Topco XIII, which can then be converted into an equal number of shares within 18 months at Rs 227 each, about 0.4% below Thursday's closing price. The shares on Friday rose as much as 1.9% before paring gains.

India has lured international investment firms seeking to diversify assets in Asia just as China's appeal wanes due to trade frictions and weaker economic growth. Blackstone, which has about $50 billion worth of private equity and real estate investments in India, has singled out India as its best investment market in the world.

Even before this transaction, some $15 billion worth of deals involving financial firms in India had been struck this year, data compiled by Bloomberg show. That's building on momentum in previous years to invest in banks, insurance and fintech firms.

Blackstone has been expanding its strategy beyond private equity and real estate in India. Earlier this year, it hired Apurva Shah from Deutsche Bank AG for a top role in its private credit and insurance business in the country.

Its affiliate will have the right to nominate one non-executive director to the Federal Bank board after its holding has risen to at least 5% following the conversion of the warrants. Asia II Topco XIII will initially pay 25% of the price to buy the warrants and the remaining 75% at the time of allotment of shares upon conversion.

Chief Executive Officer KVS Manian is little over a year at the helm of Federal Bank. At Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, his former employer, he spearheaded growth at the wholesale bank, commercial bank and private banking, as well as overseeing the institutional equities and investment banking businesses.


# VIT opens applications for VITEEE 2026

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has opened applications for VITEEE 2026, inviting aspiring engineers to take the next step towards a dream career.

Students can now apply online at www.viteee.vit.ac.in for admission to VIT's flagship engineering programmes offered across its campuses in Vellore, Chennai, Amaravati and Bhopal.

VITEEE 2026 will be conducted in a single phase, scheduled from April 28, 2026 to May 3, 2026. The exam will be held in 134 test cities across India and at nine international test centres, providing students the flexibility to choose a location based on their place of study or native region.

With world-class infrastructure, strong industry linkages and excellent placement opportunities, VIT continues to be one of India's most sought-after destinations for engineering education.

Curated by DH Brandspot


# Private sector activity eases to five-month low in Oct, PMI shows

## Yet, growth remained robust and well above the 50-mark

BENGALURU, REUTERS

Growth in India's private sector eased to a five-month low in October as weaker demand and rising output prices weighed on business optimism, a survey showed on Friday.

HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, fell to 59.9 this month from a final reading of 61.0 in September and below a Reuters poll median forecast of 61.2.

Despite slipping to the lowest since May, growth remained robust and well above the 50-mark separating expansion from contraction.

The overall index - a seasonally adjusted index measuring the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors - was mainly dragged down by a slowdown in services growth even as manufacturing activity recovered from a four-month low in September.

The overall index was mainly dragged down by a slowdown in services growth.

The flash manufacturing PMI rose to 58.4 from 57.7 last month while the services business activity index slipped to 58.8 from 60.9.

An overall new orders sub-index expanded firmly though at its weakest pace since May. The softer increase stemmed from a loss of growth momentum in the services sector, however, goods producers saw a slightly quicker rise than in September.

International demand for Indian goods and services softened to its weakest in seven months, largely due to a slower increase in manufacturing exports.

India is facing steep tariffs on its exports to the United States, with President Trump reiterating tariffs will remain high unless New Delhi stops its purchases of Russian oil.

A monthly bulletin released by the Reserve Bank of India on Monday noted merchandise trade remained resilient overall but highlighted a sharp decline in exports to the U.S. in September as the higher tariffs kicked in.

Cost pressure eased across both sectors, helped by a lowering of the goods and services tax (GST) in September. However, firms refrained from passing those benefits on to customers and selling charges were raised to offset higher operational costs.

For the year-ahead business optimism waned showing concerns over rising competitive pressures, market conditions and demand trends.

# MTR parent Orkla sets IPO price band of Rs 695-730

REUTERS

Orkla India, parent of Indian ready-to-eat brand MTR Foods, set a price band of Rs 695-730 a share for its initial public offering (IPO), targeting a valuation of Rs 10,000 crore ($1.14 billion) at the upper end, according to Reuters calculations.

The India unit of Norwegian branded consumer goods group Orkla will launch its IPO for retail investors on October 29, it said in a newspaper advertisement. Anchor investors can submit their bids a day earlier, on October 28, the advertisement showed.

The company, which makes packaged foods ranging from breakfast mix to spices and meals, filed draft papers in June.

Orkla Asia Pacific, among the company's biggest shareholders - and part of what is known as "promoters or promoters group" in India - will sell 20.6 million shares in the IPO.

Other existing shareholders including Navas Meeran and Feroz Meeran - chairman and vice chairman at the retail and property conglomerate Meeran Group - will sell 1.1 million shares each.

The IPO does not include a fresh issue of shares.

Brands owned by Orkla India include MTR, condiments brands Eastern and Rasoi Mix and Laban jelly-candy.

Its consolidated profit grew about 13% in the financial year ended March 2025 at Rs 256 crore, while revenue rose 1.6% to Rs 2,395 crore.

Orkla India counts Tata Consumer Products and Dabur India among its listed rivals.

## CORPORATE SCOREBOARD Q2FY26

### Dr Reddy's misses profit view

Generic drugmaker Dr Reddy's Laboratories missed second-quarter profit estimates on Friday, hurt by higher costs and stiff competition for the generic version of the blockbuster cancer drug Revlimid in its key North America market.

The company's consolidated net profit came in at Rs 1,347 crore in the quarter ended September 30, below analysts' average estimate of Rs 1,410 crore, as per data compiled by LSEG. The drugmaker's total revenues rose 9.8% to Rs 8,828 crore during the quarter, largely helped by the Europe market. However, revenue from its biggest market, North America, fell 13% during the quarter.

Analysts from at least three brokerages had estimated a 6%-13% fall in the company's sales in the US.

Lenalidomide, a generic version of Bristol-Myers Squibb's popular cancer treatment drug Revlimid, has been a key contributor to the company's North America sales since 2022.

Meanwhile, the company's total expenses rose 15.2%.

### Coforge net up 86% in Q2

IT services firm Coforge reported a better-than-expected 86% surge in second-quarter profit as client spending picked up across the sector. Consolidated net profit rose to Rs 376 bcrore in the quarter ended September 30, above analysts' average expectation of Rs 371 crore, according to data compiled by LSEG. Revenue rose 31.7% to Rs 3,986 crore, largely in line with analysts' estimate of Rs 4,033 crore.

However, Coforge's deal wins for the quarter were marginally lower at $514 million from $516 million last year.

Analysts also attributed realisations from Coforge's $1.5 billion deal with U.S. client Sabre as a significant factor.

### Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages FY25 profit down 73%

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Ltd, the bottling arm of beverage major Coca-Cola in India, reported a 73% decline in net profit to Rs 756.64 crore in FY2024-25.

Its revenue from operations dropped by 9% to Rs 12,751.29 crore, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

Its total income, which includes other income, was up 9.63% to Rs12,864.36 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2025, according to financial data accessed through the business intelligence platform Tofler.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Ltd (HCCBL) net profit was at Rs 2,808.31 crore and its revenue from operations was at 14,021.55 crore in the year-ago period.

The company had a higher base in FY24 due to gains resulting from the divestment of its bottling operations in Rajasthan, Bihar, the North-East, and parts of West Bengal to its existing bottlers - Kandhari Global Beverages, SLMG Beverages, and Moon Beverages, respectively - on a going concern basis through a slump sale.

HCCBL's total tax expenses were also down 72 per cent in FY'25 to Rs247.98 crore. It was at Rs 910.07 crore a year ago in FY'24.

*-Agencies*

# DMart's Damani invests Rs 90 crore in Lenskart ahead of IPO

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Billionaire investor Radhakishan Damani, founder of Avenue Supermarts (DMart), has invested around Rs 90 crore in eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions in a pre-IPO (initial public offering) funding round, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

The investment comes ahead of Lenskart's maiden public offering, which is expected to open for public subscription next week.

The eyewear retailer is looking to raise Rs 2,150 crore through fresh issuance of equity shares, besides, promoters and investors would offload 13.22 crore equity shares, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

As a part of the OFS, promoters -- Peyush Bansal, Neha Bansal, Amit Chaudhary and Sumeet Kapahi; and other investors would offload shares. Lenskart proposes to utilise the proceeds from the IPO for various strategic initiatives, including capex.

# Cyber legal frameworks need to evolve in pace with AI, say experts

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Besides a rise in cybercrimes, concerns are growing over user data being harvested by private firms and government agencies alike. People are increasingly demanding stronger data protection and privacy safeguards.

At the Cyber Vidhi Sangam Conclave 2025, hosted by NLSIU alumni, experts discussed the urgent need for law and technology to evolve with changing times.

The panel, featuring experts- Sachin Dhawan (Deputy Director, The Dialogue), Shloka Narayanan (Poovayya & Co.), and Sandeep Kumar Akkimolla (ANSR), had a broad consensus that the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, which saw multiple revisions of the drafts, was a step in the right direction.

From left to right: Dr A Nagarathna (Associate Professor of Law, NLSIU), Anuj Bhansali (VP Trust & Safety, PhonePe), Rahul Sasi (Co-Founder & CEO, CloudSEK), and Dr. Fakkeerappa Kaginelli, IPS (DIG Law and Order, AP State).

They also agreed that data localisation will strengthen India's legal shield for user information.

In another session, speakers from PhonePe (Anuj Bhansali), CloudSEK(Rahul Sasi), and Dr Fakkeerappa Kaginelli, IPS (Andhra Pradesh) offered insights on how AI is being used by both cyber defenders and criminals.

Even non-tech-savvy teenagers can now create malware-laden apps, posing serious risks to smartphone users.

Indian law enforcement is improving cybercrime investigation locally, but cross-border scams—especially those operating from Southeast Asia—remain difficult to tackle.

Experts urged citizens to practise digital hygiene and called on the government to enhance cyber awareness, train police and judiciary in digital literacy, and continuously update AI and cybersecurity policies to match the pace of technological change.

# Airlines to operate 26,495 flights every week in winter schedule

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Airlines will operate 26,495 flights every week in the winter schedule starting from October 26, connecting 126 airports and the number of services will be around 6 per cent higher than the year-ago period.

The number of weekly flights in the Winter Schedule 2025 (WS25), spanning from October 26 to March 28 next year, is 3.46 per cent higher than the current summer schedule, but the total number of airports connected in WS25 will be slightly lower.

The civil aviation ministry on Friday said 26,495 departures per week have been finalised to/from 126 airports in the WS25 compared to 25,610 departures per week from 129 airports in the Summer Schedule (SS25).

All domestic airlines, except Air India, Alliance Air, and Fly Big, will be operating more weekly flights than in WS24. In WS25, IndiGo and Air India will operate 15,014 weekly domestic flights.

# NCLT refuses to stay Aakash EGM on rights issue

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The National Company Law Tribunal has declined to grant any interim relief to insolvency-bound edtech firm Byju's, which sought to restrain Aakash Educational Services Ltd (AESL) from convening its extraordinary general meeting (EGM) for a rights issue.

It rejected Byju's plea to stay the EGM to be held on October 29, 2025, observing "acceptance of such plea would lead to an incoherent proposition undermining the independent rights of the company".

"As a shareholder, the Petitioner (Byju's) may validly seek financial documents to be aware of the health of the Respondent No 1 (AESL), but the proposed rights issue infusing funds cannot be termed to be unequitable," said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

The tribunal's order mentioned that this is the second petition by Think & Learn Pvt Ltd, which operates under the brand name Byju's, filed through its Resolution Professional before the Bengaluru bench of the NCLT on the same issue. Byju's sought the EGM to be kept on hold, as the rights issue would reduce its stake in Aaskash from 25% to less than 5%.

THE FINISH LINE

# India close to US trade deal even as minister says it won't rush

BLOOMBERG

India is close to finalising a trade deal with the United States, as both sides near agreement on most issues, a government official said, even as the trade minister emphasised New Delhi will not rush into any pact.

There has been a convergence of most issues and a deal is in sight, the official, who asked not to be identified as the discussions were private, told reporters in New Delhi. Earlier, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India will not be pressured to finalise agreements.

"We don't do deals in a hurry, and we don't do deals with deadlines, with a gun on our head," Goyal said at an event in Berlin, Germany. "And we have accepted if there is a tariff on us, there is a tariff on us."

US President Donald Trump has singled out India with a punitive 50% tariff, citing both its purchase of Russian oil and reluctance to extend greater market access to American goods. Washington has asked New Delhi to halt all Russian imports, a key condition for finalising a trade deal.

Piyush Goyal.

The official said negotiators are engaged virtually and discussing legal language of the deal, and a final decision needs to be taken by the political leadership of both the nations.

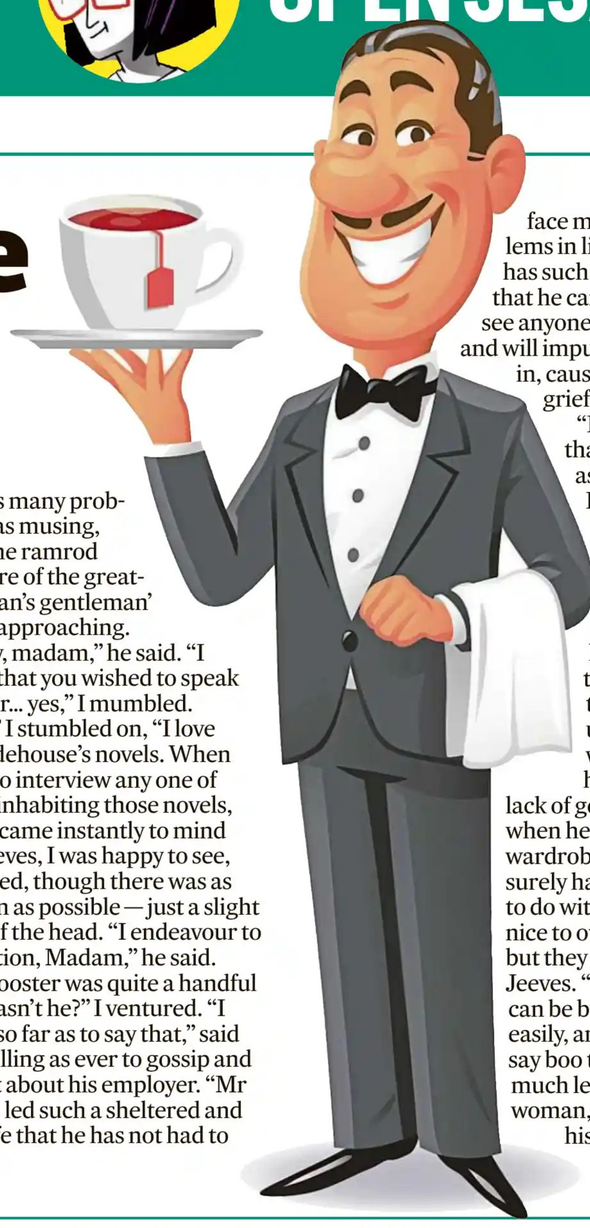
Earlier this week, Trump announced that he spoke with Modi, who assured him that India would cut its Russian oil imports. New Delhi acknowledged the call but did not confirm the president's assertion. On Thursday, Modi posted on X that he would be skipping the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, missing out on a possible meeting with Trump.

India's benchmark NSE Nifty 50 Index fell as much as 0.7% after Goyal's comments before paring losses to close 0.4% lower, snapping a six-day winning streak.

Washington's move this week to sanction Russian crude giants Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC is expected to push supplies from the region toward near zero. In response, Reliance Industries Ltd., India's biggest importer of Russian oil by volume this year, has purchased millions of barrels of crude from the Middle East and the US following the sanctions.

# Jeeves, the Mr Fix-It

**Valsala Rajan writes about the man who always has a solution in P G Wodehouse's world**



Good Lord, Jeeves! Is there anything you don't know?"

"I couldn't say, sir."

*(P G Wodehouse: The Inimitable Jeeves)*

You know how you sometimes feel jittery when you're about to meet the principal? Well, that's how I felt while I prepared to meet the 'propah' Jeeves. As those of you who've watched serials like 'Downton Abbey' will know, these butlers and valets sometimes seem more straight-laced and bigger sticklers for etiquette than the nobility whom they work for. To make matters worse, Jeeves was particularly intelligent and seemed to know everything about everything! A valet, like Jeeves, didn't just take care of his employer; he took care of all his many problems! As I was musing, I could see the ramrod straight figure of the greatest 'gentleman's gentleman' in all fiction approaching.

"Good day, madam," he said. "I understand that you wished to speak with me." "Er... yes," I mumbled. "The fact is," I stumbled on, "I love reading Wodehouse's novels. When I was asked to interview any one of the persons inhabiting those novels, the one that came instantly to mind was you." Jeeves, I was happy to see, looked pleased, though there was as little reaction as possible — just a slight inclination of the head. "I endeavour to give satisfaction, Madam," he said.

"Bertie Wooster was quite a handful to handle, wasn't he?" I ventured. "I wouldn't go so far as to say that," said Jeeves, unwilling as ever to gossip and certainly not about his employer. "Mr Wooster has led such a sheltered and privileged life that he has not had to face many problems in life, but he has such a kind heart that he cannot bear to see anyone in distress and will impulsively step in, causing much grief to himself."

"I guess that's a fair assessment," I agreed. "But what about all the many instances when he keeps getting engaged to the most unsuitable women, and his complete lack of good taste when he chooses his wardrobe? Those surely have nothing to do with being nice to others?" "Oh, but they do," said Jeeves. "You see, he can be bullied very easily, and he cannot say boo to a goose, much less to a woman, because of his kindness. And sometimes he just proposes marriage to help a friend or to help the lady herself." I'm afraid I rolled my eyes — I could remember an episode where Jeeves devises a plot to convince a lady that Bertie was insane to get her to call off the 'engagement'. Jeeves gave me a disapproving look and then went on... "As for the clothes, he just needed a nudge in the right direction." I smiled, remembering instances where Jeeves would simply remove or even destroy a tasteless piece of clothing before Bertie could wear it. Jeeves excelled at removing problems either with Bertie's knowledge or without it!

"You're not a butler, are you? And yet, one of the many ways in which you've helped Wooster's friends is by taking on butler duties in a pinch." "Helping his employer wherever a need arises is part of the duty of a gentleman's gentleman," said Jeeves.

"How do you know so much?" I asked. "About everything?!" "I read," was the terse answer. "A good book is one of the greatest pleasures in life. If everyone would just take up a book now and then (I highly recommend Spinoza, Shakespeare and the Russian authors), there would be many more valets like me." "Oh, but we don't have valets anymore," I said. Jeeves was horrified. "How does a gentleman get into his clothes?" he asked. "Well, they just put them on," I said. Jeeves was scandalised. "So, if they want to buy a gaudy vase or wear purple socks (Jeeves shuddered), they'd just wear them?" he asked. "With no one to guide them to a more appropriate colour?" I shrugged. Poor Jeeves would have found the 21st century hard!

"Is there any advice you can give us on how to be more like you and less like the hapless Bertie now that we all have to look after ourselves?" I asked. Jeeves thought a moment. "Don't get overexcited or dramatic over every little problem. You need to be calm to think," he said. "And read... it gives you a much deeper understanding of human nature. And, if I might make a suggestion, madam — always dress with thought and elegance — appearance matters." I glanced down at my outfit and grimaced.

I'm told you were named after a Warwickshire cricketer, and no one knew your first name for a very long time. A wry smile briefly appeared on Jeeves' face. Indeed, Mr Wooster was quite shocked to know that I even had a first name.

"Do you know that there are many TV characters that have been built up on your model? And companies and websites that solve problems...?" Jeeves reddened... almost! "That is certainly most gratifying to hear," he deigned to say.

"I wish I had a Jeeves in my life," I said, as it was time to say goodbye. Thank you, Jeeves, on behalf of the Woosters in all of us.

# 4 animation MOVIES for Halloween

**They are packed with comedy and adventure**

## Coco (2017)

**Directors:** Lee Unkrich and Adrian Molina
In 'Coco', a young Mexican boy, Miguel, dreams of becoming a musician, though his family is against the idea. On Día de los Muertos (the Day of the dead), he is transported to the Land of the Dead where he uncovers his ancestors' story, and the reason behind the family's ban on music. Winner of two Academy Awards (best animated feature and best original song), the film's plot has adventure, emotion, gentle spooky vibes and family values.

## Hotel Transylvania (2012)

**Director:** Genndy Tartakovsky
The monster-comedy film was nominated for a Golden Globe in the best animated feature category. It is set in a lavish resort called Hotel Transylvania, a safe haven for monsters to relax without human interference. When the daughter of the hotel's owner Count Dracula, turns 118, a human backpacker named Jonathan accidentally checks into the hotel, turning everything upside down, and sparking a chaotic, funny adventure.

## ParaNorman (2012)

**Directors:** Sam Fell and Chris Butler
Norman is an 11-year-old boy who can communicate with the dead. When his town is threatened by a witch's centuries-old curse and zombies, he must summon all his courage and save the day, along with a few companions. The film was nominated for both an Academy Award and a BAFTA Award.

## Monster House (2006)

**Director:** Gil Kenan
During Halloween, three kids suspect that their neighbour's creepy house is dangerous and "alive". What starts off as a dare turns into a thrilling mission to stop the house from "eating" people — and saving the spooky holiday. This animated supernatural horror comedy was nominated for an Academy Award.

# Festive October is here...

**Open Sesame readers share their art**

On October 11, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you.

Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition!

Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*

**TULSI TAVARGERI, 10**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

**SHRIYA, 8**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

**AADYA, 10**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

**VISHNU, 8**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

**PARNIKA, 11**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

**This Week:**

# October and others

**Open Sesame Quiz**

**Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.**

**Q1** October (from Latin 'octo' for eight) was the eighth month of the ancient, 10-month Roman calendar. Which legendary king of Rome, who succeeded the fabled Romulus, added two months to it?

**Q2** What was August initially called, when it was the sixth month of the year (and even later), until it was renamed to honour Augustus Caesar, in 8 BCE?

**Q3** The Roman god of beginnings (also, guardian of the gates) had two faces, one looking back, and the other pointing forward. Which month is appropriately named after him?

**Scan the QR code**
Or visit **bit.ly/DHopensesame** to participate in the quiz.

**Q4** **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
**Clue A:** The month, which gets its name from Jupiter's wife, is __.
**Clue B:** Only natural satellite orbiting Earth.

**Q5** **Clue Cluster:** Who lends his name to March, originally the first month of the year?
Use these clues:
a) Planet
b) War
c) Deity
d) Roman

**LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Achinthya T N (10), Tumakuru; Ishwarya Innamdar (15), Vijayapura; Shivu (14), Bengaluru.**

## LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic: 'Can one person make a difference to the planet?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on October 30. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

## POETS IN THE MAKING

### Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'A scene from my window' to *Open Sesame.* You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on November 13. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

## Word of the Week

**whittle**

(verb)
— to carve or shave thin pieces from wood with a knife, or to gradually reduce something in size or amount

Usage:
— The goal was to whittle the group to about 50 people.
— My grandfather loved to whittle sticks while resting on the porch.

## LETTER WRITING

### Write an open letter to your shadow

If you got the chance to have a conversation with your shadow, what would you like to know about it, and what would you tell it about you? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on November 6.

# Bags from Tibet, never opened

**Karnataka houses one of India's largest settlements of Tibetan refugees. Six decades after they were forced to flee their homeland, they tell Puja Goyal how they are coping with the dilemmas of exile**

Rows of whitewashed houses and bright red-and-gold monastery spires rise above the fields in Bylakuppe, about 220 km from Bengaluru. Their architecture is reminiscent of the monasteries in Tibet. The air carries the nutty aroma of tsampa and butter tea, faintly mingling with the incense wafting from the temple courtyards. Monks in maroon and saffron turn prayer wheels in the distance. Local families run handicraft shops, and schools teach Tibetan culture alongside the Indian curriculum.

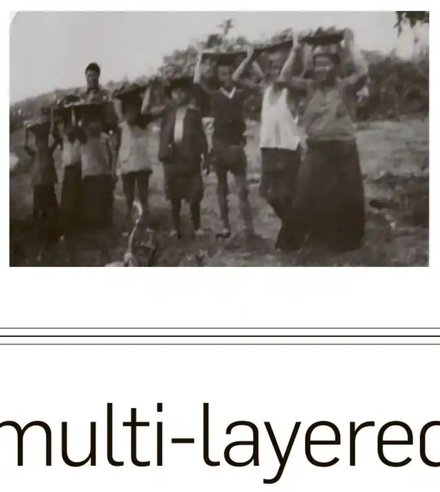
On a visit, I was struck by how, despite living far from the windswept plateaus of Tibet for over six decades, their daily lives still carry the echoes of their homeland. Ngawang Gyatso has been researching Tibetan settlements in Karnataka and provides a broad perspective on how life has played out for his community here. He is a second-generation Tibetan refugee born in Himachal Pradesh. He serves as the dean of regular studies at the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education located on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

We begin with tsampa, a roasted flour made from barley or wheat. A staple in Tibetan households, it is typically eaten as a dough or porridge along with tea. This humble, calorie-dense food has come to symbolise survival and a portable piece of home. When Gyatso's parents fled Tibet in 1980, they mostly carried on their backs photographs of the Dalai Lama, rosaries, Buddhist texts, clothes, and "of course, tsampa". Back in Tibet, sugar or dry cheese was sometimes added to tsampa for a touch of indulgence. "In the south, we even add dry fruits to it," says Gyatso, who moved to Bengaluru in 2012. He lives with his wife and father here.

## Difficult goodbye

In 1995, Gyatso was just 12 when his mother, gripped by homesickness, made the difficult decision to return to Tibet. She left him with his father, a decision made in consultation with the family. Gyatso never saw her again. She has since passed, but he finds comfort in knowing that she spent her final years among familiar faces, in a place she called home. They stayed in touch through occasional phone calls, though the conversations never went beyond pleasantries. "Phone calls are monitored. They are just too risky," explains the 40-year-old academic. Even now, international phone calls remain the only link to relatives in Tibet; Gmail, WhatsApp, and Facebook are blocked behind what is known as the 'Great Firewall of China'. According to Gyatso, other Tibetans who made the journey back found their villages erased and landscapes unrecognisable under relentless Chinese 'development'. Some were denied entry as they didn't have a 'valid' Chinese visa, and came back broken-hearted.

**An archival photo of early Tibetan settlers in Bylakuppe's Dickey Larsoe settlement, shared by Gyatso.**



## Long walk to India

In 1949, China invaded Tibet and claimed it as its own territory. China's actions were driven by "expansionist ambitions, strategic security concerns, and the desire to control the remote region's vast mineral resources". Ten years later, on March 10, 1959, thousands of Tibetans in Lhasa rose up against the Chinese occupation. The uprising was brutally crushed, though Beijing refers to the action as the 'Peaceful Liberation of Tibet'. Amid fears of an attack on the Potala Palace, the historic residence and seat of power of Tibet's spiritual and political leader, the 14th Dalai Lama, then 23, slipped out of Lhasa on March 17. He was accompanied by a 37-member entourage. They travelled incognito, with the Dalai Lama disguised in a soldier's uniform.

They journeyed on foot across the Himalayas, crossing the Lhoka region, the Tsona Dzong town, and even fording a 500-metre stretch of the Tsangpo river (the upper course of the Brahmaputra), before entering India via the Khenzimane Pass on March 31. They found refuge in the scenic Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian government, under Jawaharlal Nehru, facilitated the setting up of a Tibetan government-in-exile, first in Mussoorie and later in Dharamshala. The move came at a geopolitical cost, with China accusing India of interference.

The migration has since continued. Tibetans seek freedom to preserve their culture and faith, pursue education and speak for the voiceless on the international stage. The Chinese, I learn, forbid them even from keeping a photograph of the Dalai Lama. About 2,000 Tibetans fled to India each year in the early 2000s. By 2015-2020, the number had fallen below 100, and now it is down to a single digit or zero because of tighter border security.

Today India hosts 35 Tibetan settlements across 10 states and two union territories. India does not officially recognise Tibetans as refugees. They are classified as foreigners and, unless born in the country, they must renew their registration certificates every year. Tibetans can travel abroad using Identity Certificates, but obtaining travel documents from the Chinese embassy in Delhi for travel to Tibet remains difficult. Tibetans born between 1950 and 1987 are entitled to Indian citizenship by birth. This grants them the right to obtain passports and enrol on the voters' list (though this right is rarely exercised). Most choose not to take up Indian citizenship, fearing it would mean giving up on their Tibetan identity and commitment to a free Tibet. Their legal status is restricted — they cannot own land or hold government jobs — but most describe India as generous.

## Restarting in Karnataka

Karnataka led the way in providing refuge to the first stream of Tibetan exiles, granting 15,175 acres of agricultural land for their rehabilitation. The first settlement was established in Bylakuppe in the early 1960s, followed by a second later that decade. By the mid 1970s, other colonies had come up in Mundgod, Hunsur and Kollegal. These settlements include schools, monastic institutions, primary and specialised healthcare centres, cooperative societies, old age homes, and offices for ex-servicemen. The Sera monasteries in Bylakuppe and the Drepung and Ganden monasteries in Mundgod are closely modelled on their counterparts in Lhasa. As per information shared by Gyatso, Karnataka is home to around 21,570 Tibetans today.

Lhakpa Tsering, who runs a modest Tibetan restaurant in Bengaluru, shares stories of Bylakuppe's earliest settlers, including his parents, and clearly remembers the name of then-chief minister, S Nijalingappa. "Our people cut trees with the help of local workers to clear the forest for what would become the settlement. They were also given maize fields to farm," he says, speaking on behalf of his reticent mother seated next to him. In the early days, Gyatso adds, the refugees survived on food donations and faced challenges because of wild animals like elephants.

## Acclimatisation woes

Lhakpa's parents first arrived in Kalimpong in West Bengal, then moved further north before being sent to Karnataka by train. One of their earliest challenges was the tropical heat and "many fell sick in the early days". They arrived with thick woollens but had to soon adapt to light cottons. "The rotis here were thin, but back home, our breads were thick," he says. Over time, his mother grew fond of

> Our identity is our compass; it guides us through the uncertainties of exile.
> — Ngawang Gyatso

set dosa and rasam, and he of ragi mudde and chow chow bath. However, she says thukpa (noodle soup) has never tasted like it did in Tibet. "The taste was in the organic vegetables of the mountains," adds Lhakpa, who is in his 50s.

Amid rustling coconut palms and fluttering prayer flags, generations have now grown up speaking Tibetan, English, and some Kannada and Hindi. Though the numbers are very few, intermarriage with communities across India is another marker of their integration.

Scholars regard the Tibetan exile community in India as a model for displaced populations worldwide, one that has adapted amicably without losing its socio-cultural identity or showing signs of emotional trauma. Gyatso attributes this resilience to their religious teachings, a positive upbringing, and the tightly knit community where exile was experienced not in isolation, but as a collective story. They celebrate Losar, the Tibetan New Year, with as much enthusiasm as they observe March 10, the anniversary of the 1959 uprising, with peace marches. "Our identity is our compass; it guides us through the uncertainties of exile," reminds Gyatso.

## Country vs concept

Some Tibetans haven't still opened the bags they fled with. Once carried on the backs of mules, across mountains and forests, through hunger and fear, these bags have become symbols of hope that they will one day return home. Some families sent their children to India with relatives or guides to keep their education going, believing the situation at home would improve within a few years. Decades have since rolled by.

Elders speak of escaping across frozen rivers, hiding from soldiers, and catching the first glimpse of India that looked strange yet merciful, as if it all happened yesterday. They carry a dream bigger than themselves: to see the Dalai Lama return to the Potala Palace. For the younger generation, the refugee settlements are the only home they have ever known. Still, the responsibility of carrying their cause forward rests firmly on their shoulders. As Gyatso puts it, "Many Tibetans see Tibet not as a country, but a concept." Writer-activist Tenzin Tsundue reflects in an award-winning essay published in his book 'Kora':

*Money plants crept in through the window,*
*our house seems to have grown roots,*
*the fences have grown into a jungle,*
*now how can I tell my children where we came from?*

In Tibetan schools, children learn their history, language, and religion. They also speak Kannada and English to balance preservation and assimilation. They dance to Bollywood beats, yet on the college stage, they perform traditional dances in Tibetan costumes. They discuss Bengaluru's potholes and India's geopolitical equations too. "We hope India uses its improving tie with China to advance discussions on Tibet," says Gyatso.

Tsundue captures the burden of exile in the same essay. His nation cannot march under its flag in its national dress at the Olympics. He was born in a makeshift tent to road construction labourers — government offices assigned him three different birthdates; he celebrates none.

He recounts moments when the distance from home feels most stark. A Tibetan youth died in New York and nobody in the group knew the traditional cremation rites. Or, when a friend sent him this letter: "Tsundue, I don't know whether to rejoice that I am finally going to meet my parents or cry because I can't remember their faces. I was only a child when I was sent to India with my uncle. It has been twenty years."

## Cultural continuity

Tibetan refugees today run crafts and food businesses, work in agriculture, join the corporate and service sectors, teach in community schools, and take up jobs with their government-in-exile. Increasingly, many are moving abroad, not just to create a better life for themselves, but also to support their families and communities back home through remittances. However, migration to the West poses a dilemma. In India, settlements help families stay together, care for one another, and maintain cultural continuity. Abroad, scattered communities risk losing the cohesion that sustains their stories, and their struggle for a free Tibet. Gyatso emphasises that India remains the Tibetans' closest link to home. The community is also facing a declining birth rate.

## Take me home

Their roots have grown deep in India, intertwined with new lives, yet for many Tibetans in their youth and middle age, their grandparents' stories tug at their hearts. They long to visit Tibet to see the Potala

**Dalai Lama on his way to visit the Tibetan colony in Mundgod in 2019. (Top) In 2024, Tibetans took out a protest march in Mysuru demanding the release of their revered spiritual leader 11th Panchen Lama, allegedly abducted by China.** DH FILE PHOTOS

Palace, to ride horses across open plains, and to eat the large mountain potatoes and beans. Above all, they wish to honour the sacrifices their elders made for the free life they live in India.

Tenzin Tema, a psychology student, says, "My grandparents fled as children, walking through deep snow, hiding from soldiers, and enduring frostbite and paralysis along the way." Tenzin Nordon, 23, adds that seeing Tibet would connect her more deeply to her heritage; she is currently working in an old-age home to give back to her community. For Tsering Dolma, another college student, "freedom means living with dignity and our own identity, something our ancestors risked their lives for".

However, most do not know the exact location of their ancestral homes; their grandparents have passed on, and their parents were too young to remember. Many families in Karnataka live with baggage still unpacked, physically and metaphorically. The thought of returning to Tibet lingers alongside many anxieties: But what if it is too late? What if the Tibet they remember, or imagine, no longer exists? What if there is no one waiting for them?

Amid this weight of exile, hope persists. Dolma says: "Being a refugee means carrying the memory and spirit of a homeland I have never seen but feel connected to. It means living with gratitude for the freedom we have in India, while still holding the dream of returning to a free Tibet. It is a reminder of both the loss of a homeland and the strength in never giving up on identity."

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MUSICANA

# A multi-layered sonic experience that addresses humanitarian crises

**Sarod player Soumik Datta talks to Rashmi Rajagopal about conceptualising his latest tour as an immersive experience**

Noted sarod player Soumik Datta is among a handful of artistes blending Hindustani music with genres like pop, rock and electronica. Since the beginning of October, he has been travelling across the country on his 'Melodies in Slow Motion' tour, which he describes as being "inspired by India's rich history of travelling musicians, which predates the record industry".

"As a kid visiting my grandparents near Shantiniketan, West Bengal, I was profoundly influenced by the community of Bauls (mystic minstrels) whose lives were dedicated to travelling village to village to spread spiritual messages through their music," he shares.

Through the tour, he will not only perform but also conduct workshops in schools "to demonstrate how music builds empathy". "The tour stems from a desire to redefine the model of touring, moving away from the transactional nature of modern performance. I felt compelled to create a structure focused on mindful travel and deep, sustained engagement," he notes. It is evidently an extension of the messages embedded in his music, which addresses important issues such as humanitarian crises, climate change and mental health.

The London-based musician explains that the performances, titled 'Travellers', offer a multi-layered sonic experience that "blurs the line between a traditional concert and an immersive audio documentary". The shows are informed by Datta's fascination with cinema and the mood created by the coming together of music, dialogue and sound effects.

The music, he says, was born from an urgent, almost visceral response to the humanitarian crises across the world. He was moved by the suffering in war-torn regions like Gaza. "My primary intention was to create an extended piece that actively holds and shares that raw feeling of helplessness and grief, rather than offering simplistic comfort," he elaborates, adding, "'Travellers' is more a piece of active grief work, a way to process the world's pain".

Datta was not aiming for a traditional song structure, but a soundscape. He explains that the piece moves through distinct emotional phases, beginning with a sense of jarring dissonance. It is punctuated with samples from news broadcasts, which act as the percussive base for several tracks. Drawing heavily from Indian classical and folk traditions, it also uses sarod for its deep, melancholic resonance. This is contrasted sharply with unfiltered vocal samples of the cries of the refugees. "Genre-wise, it exists in a space between contemporary classical composition, ambient sound art, and urgent folk lament," he states.

The performances from the tour will be turned into an album, which he hopes to release next year.

**Soumik Datta calls his latest show a "piece of active grief work".**

# Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, sarod legend, turns 80

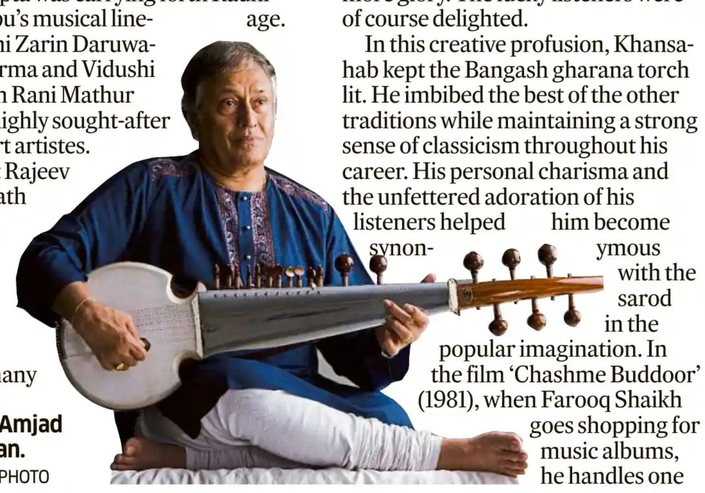
**The maestro, whose musical tradition harks back to Tansen, blends emotional depth with technical brilliance, writes Chetan Vinchhi**

Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan turned 80 on October 9. And he has been performing for an astounding three quarters of a century, having made his concert debut at six! Amjad Ali is musical royalty by birth. His father and Guru Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan was the doyen of the Bangash (Gwalior) tradition that traces its musical lineage to Tansen. He was one of the finest performers of the sarod of the 20th century. His mantle passed on to his son, who wears it with rare dignity and grace.

I once met him in late 1995. He was waiting for his car outside Rang Bhavan, Bombay. He was soft-spoken and gracious. This was in the wee hours of the morning and he had just played a scintillating Ahir Bhairav. His humility was seen at a concert at Freer Art Gallery, Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, where he said he was "attempting a difficult raga", and proceeded to play an evocative alaap in Marwa.

Those performances embodied the very best of his musicianship. He effortlessly blends technical brilliance with emotional depth. The sarod is well equipped to play *meends* (graces) since the fingerboard is fretless. And Amjad Ali plays *meends* eloquently as heard in his 1979 recording of Raag Darbari Kanada. He is a past master of the intricate ekhara taans, as heard for instance in his first LP of 'Raag Desh' (1967) with the formidable Pandit Samta Prasad on tabla.

Amjad Ali rose to prominence at an early age. The sarod firmament was star-studded during the era. Ustad Ali Akbar Khan of the Maihar gharana had already taken the sarod to the global stage. His cousin Ustad Bahadur Khan and his son Ustad Ashish Khan were at the pinnacle of their prowess. Pandit Budhhadeb Dasgupta was carrying forth Radhika-babu's musical lineage. Vidushi Zarin Daruwala-Sharma and Vidushi Sharan Rani Mathur were highly sought-after concert artistes. Pandit Rajeev Taranath was a connoisseur's delight. And many more. Each one of these artistes brought a unique charm to the sarod and the instrument had never seen more glory. The lucky listeners were of course delighted.



Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. DH FILE PHOTO

In this creative profusion, Khansahab kept the Bangash gharana torch lit. He imbibed the best of the other traditions while maintaining a strong sense of classicism throughout his career. His personal charisma and the unfettered adoration of his listeners helped him become synonymous with the sarod in the popular imagination. In the film 'Chashme Buddoor' (1981), when Farooq Shaikh goes shopping for music albums, he handles one of Khansahab's LPs (the 1976 'Raag Shree' release). Here, Khansahab was in elite company — the other albums in the scene were by Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Begum Akhtar! Amjad Ali was also ubiquitous on Doordarshan. One avidly remembers him in the short film on 'Desh Raag' where he plays the raag in Lodi Gardens in the company of children. The piece is reminiscent of not only his debut album but also his father's recording of the same raag from decades earlier.

Amjad Ali's oeuvre is dominated by his sarod recordings and his forays into other projects have been limited albeit good. His album 'South meets North' with the venerable Vidwan Lalgudi Jayaraman is one of the finest Hindustani-Karnatik fusion works to date. It features Bhoop/Mohanam and Malkauns/Hindolam. The blending of the two streams is so perfect that I think of it as jugalbandi rather than fusion! Khansahab has composed the music for the album 'Guftagoo', ghazals and songs sung by contemporary artistes. The reimagining of 'kaahe ko deeni bides' in Vidushi Shobha Gurtu's voice is fabulous.

He has been quite a prolific creator of new melodies. He composed raag Subhalakshmi in the honour of his wife, who is the centre of his family and his life. He created Raag Priyadarshini as a tribute to Indira Gandhi soon after her untimely death. He has been credited with the creation of 20 new raagas.

Amjad Ali's two sons Aman and Ayaan Ali Bangash are following in his footsteps, and it is heartening to see the grandsons also taking to the instrument. This must be a source of immense satisfaction for him.

**Films featuring Sudeep, Mohanlal, Alia and Rashmika are coming up, writes Pranati A S**

# What's lined up in the rest of 2025?

The year 2025 has been interesting for Indian cinema so far. While most of the much awaited and big budget films tanked at the box office, there were some sleeper hits like 'Saiyaara' (Hindi), 'Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra' (Malayalam) and 'Su from So' (Kannada).

Since the release of 'Kantara Chapter 1' on October 2, there have not been many big theatrical releases until Deepavali, which saw the release of 'Thamma'.

Filmmakers are now trying to make the most of the nine weeks left until the end of the year.

'Baahubali: The Epic', a combined, re-edited version of S S Rajamouli's 'Baahubali: The Beginning' and 'The Conclusion' is scheduled for worldwide release on October 31. 'The Taj Story' will also release on the same day. It is reportedly based on historian P N Oak's claim that the monument was originally Tejo Mahalaya, a Shiva temple.

Rashmika Mandanna has had an eventful 2025. After 'Pushpa: The Rule' earned her wide acclaim last year, she began 2025 with 'Chhavva' alongside Vicky Kaushal. The movie is reportedly 2025's biggest opener for Hindi cinema. It was followed by 'Sikandar', with Salman Khan and the Telugu film 'Kuberaa' (directed by Sekhar Kammula) with Dhanush. She was recently seen in 'Thamma', part of Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Horror Comedy Universe, in which she plays a vampire opposite Ayushmann Khuranna. Rashmika has two more films lined up for release this year — the Telugu films 'The Girlfriend' (November 7) and 'Mysaa' (tentative December release).

'The Girlfriend' also stars Dheekshit Shetty in the lead role. The actor will also be seen in Kannada comedy heist 'Bank of Bhagyalakshmi' slated for release on November 21. The Hindi romantic drama 'Gustaakh Ishq' (Fatima Sana Sheikh and Vijay Varma) will also release on the same day. It is a Vishal Bharadwaj musical.

Kannada filmmaker Nanda Kishore's Mohanlal-starrer 'Vrusshabha' is among the bigger releases in November, as is Mammooty's 'Kalamkaval', an action crime thriller. The latter marks the directorial debut of Jithin K Jose, who worked as a writer for Dulquer Salmaam's 'Kurup'. Dulquer's period drama 'Kantha' will be in theatres on Children's Day.

'Tere Ishk Mein', a sequel to the 2013 hit 'Raanjhanaa', is hitting theatres on November 28. It is to be noted that the original's Tamil-dubbed version received backlash for its AI-altered ending a few months ago. The sequel unites Anand L Rai and Dhanush. Kriti Sanon plays the lead, replacing Sonam Kapoor.

Emraan Hashmi and Gautam Dhar's courtroom drama 'Haq' and the Ajay Devgn-Rakul Preet Singh's rom-com 'De De Pyaar De 2' are scheduled to release on November 7 and 14, respectively.

Playing the lead in four films, Rashmika Mandanna has had the most eventful 2025. Her next, 'The Girlfriend' is slated for release next month.

## December rush

A long-standing belief in the Kannada industry is that movies released in December, mostly towards the end of the month, tend to perform exceptionally well at the box office. Some examples are 'Mungaru Male' (2006), Kirik Party (2016), 'KGF Chapter 1' (2021), 'Kaatera' (2023), 'UI' (2024) and 'Max' (2024).

Three films featuring the industry's biggest names are set for release in December. While '45' is directed by Arjun Janya with Raj B Shetty, Upendra and Shivarajkumar playing leads, 'Devil' stars Darshan Thoogudeepa and 'Mark', Kichcha Sudeepa.

December will also see the release of 'Uri' director Aditya Dhar's multi-starrer 'Dhurandhar', featuring Ranveer Singh, Arjun Rampal, Madhavan, Akshaye Khanna and Sanjay Dutt. It will be out on the last Friday of the month. The film marks Sara Arjun's debut as the lead after playing young Nandini in Mani Ratnam's magnum opus, 'Ponniyin Selvan'.

The YRF Spy Universe, which was trolled for its physics-defying instalment 'War 2', starring Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, is set to release 'Alpha' for Christmas. Alia Bhatt and Bobby Deol play the leads.

Sriram Raghavan's war drama 'Ikkis' with Agastya Nanda playing a war hero is also slated for a December release.

## November for small budget films

With December being fully booked by big stars, smaller Kannada films are banking on a November release. They still have to contend with the popularity of 'Kantara: Chapter 1', running successfully across theatres.

'Love U Alia' actor Chandan Kumar is making his directorial debut with 'Flirt' set for release on November's first Friday. The following week will see director Simple SuNi's 'Gatha Vaibhava', featuring Dushyanth and Ashika Ranganath. November 21 will see the release of at least four films — the romantic comedy 'Full Meals', Dheekshit Shetty's 'Bank of Bhagyalakshmi', director S Narayan's thriller 'Marutha' featuring Shreyas K Manju and Duniya Vijay, and Chaitra J Achar-starrer 'Marnami'. The month ends with Vijay Raghavendra's cop-thriller 'Second Case of Seetharam', a sequel to 'Seetharam Benoy Case No 18'.

With theatres in Karnataka prioritising Kannada films in the Rajyotsava month, filmmakers are eyeing a considerable number of screens for their films.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Kichcha Sudeep's 'Mark' will have a Christmas release.

MOVIE REVIEWS

# Rom-com aims to break stigma of vitiligo

JAGADISH ANGADI

★★★½☆

**Bili Chukki Halli Hakki**
**Kannada (Theatres)**
**Director: Mahesh Gowdha**
**Cast: Mahesh Gowdha, Kaajal Kunder, Jahangeer MS, Veena Sunder, Lakshmi Siddaiah, Ravi Bhat**

Filmmaker Mahesh Gowdha certainly needs applause for his decision to tackle vitiligo as the theme in his second outing 'Bili Chukki Halli Hakki'.

The film, based on true events, aims to break societal stigma attached to vitiligo and promote acceptance of those affected by the disorder. The skin condition is known for having a deep impact on one's mental health.

Gowdha, who suffers from this condition, plays the lead himself. It adds a layer of authenticity to the film.

The story revolves around Shiva, a young man with vitiligo, who faces societal stigma and rejection. Despite his condition, he gets married to a beautiful girl Kavitha (Kaajal Kunder). She later reveals to him that she needs time to touch him. She has a strong reason to marry Shivu. The movie explores their journey.

The storyline has the potential to resonate with many who have faced similar struggles. It also underscores the harsh reality that physical wounds often heal faster than deep-seated emotional scars.

The movie strikes a perfect balance, weaving romance and comedy into its narrative without coming across as preachy or documentary-like.

Kaajal Kunder and Mahesh Gowdha

Gowdha and Kaajal's performances are impactful, conveying a range of complex emotions that resonate with the audience. They bring depth and nuance to their characters.

At times, the film feels a bit stretched, with one song seeming unnecessary. A tighter edit could have a more positive impact. Despite its predictable plot, the film manages to keep viewers engaged through its twists and turns. The dialogues by Prathapa are impactful and layered with meaning, while the background score and cinematography are average.

# Madness to sit through

TAHER AHMED

★½☆☆☆

**Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat**
**Hindi (Theatres)**
**Director: Milap Zaveri**
**Cast: Harshvardhan Rane, Sonam Bhajwa, Shaad Randhawa, Sachin Khedekar**

Love manifests itself in many forms, and the most painful of those are one-sided. 'Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat' is one such lopsided love story, where a powerful political scion, Vikramaditya Bhonsle (Harshvardhan Rane) falls in love with the heartthrob of Bollywood, Adaa Randhawa (Sonam Bajwa).

Used to getting what he wants, Vikram is oblivious to the difference between harassment and wooing, as he just can't take no for an answer. After multiple failed attempts to convey her disinterest in him, and after the government fails her, Adaa puts out a rewad for anyone who can kill Vikram — a chance to bed with her. What happens next is for all to see, as love and hate battle each other in a slow-paced environment. In a bid to woo her, Vikram attempts to show his other side, after failing to win her over with his misogyny. It just feels like stalking on steroids.

The acting is below par and there is no real aura on screen. The dialogues are perhaps intended to evoke nostalgia but fall flat and just don't strike a chord.

The saving grace is perhaps the music, with the soundtrack bringing some semblance of life to the story. The ending is a typical Bollywood one, where tragedy strikes and love finally blooms. One thing the makers have got right is the title, for sitting through the movie requires madness and immense patience.

Sonam Bajwa and Harshvardhan Rane

Jeremy Strong and Sebastian Stan play Roy Cohn and Donald Trump.

# Power without depth

AMOGH RAVINDRA

★★☆☆☆

**The Apprentice**
**English (Lionsgate Play)**
**Director: Ali Abbasi**
**Cast: Sebastian Stan, Jeremy Strong, Martin Donovan, Maria Bakalova**

Every rise has its maker. In 'The Apprentice', that role belongs to Roy Cohn, the lawyer who teaches a young Donald Trump that winning is better than being right. Ali Abbasi's film steps into 1970s New York, a city of glass towers, cigarette smoke and unchecked ambition. It's less a biopic and more a mirror, showing how power learns to dress itself early.

The first half is gripping, showing Trump's transformation under Cohn's mentorship with dark humour and steady tension. Their relationship feels like a deal with the devil, each feeding the other's hunger for control. But once the story jumps forward in time, it starts to lose focus. What begins as a sharp character study turns into something broader and less revealing.

Sebastian Stan gives a convincing performance as Trump, playing him with nervous charm and quiet calculation. Jeremy Strong's Roy Cohn is calm, magnetic and quietly terrifying. Their scenes together have real charge, even when the writing slips. Maria Bakalova and Martin Donovan appear briefly, adding texture without leaving much impact. The film belongs entirely to Stan and Strong, who command every scene they share.

The technical craft is impressive. The cinematography captures the texture of the era, the editing keeps things tight and the music never overplays emotion.

'The Apprentice' is ambitious, stylish and often compelling, but it never digs deep enough. Abbasi sketches the making of a monster without fully exploring the system that helped him rise.

# A thriller that lights a fuse, slowly

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★★½

**A House Of Dynamite**
**English (Netflix)**
**Director: Kathryn Bigelow**
**Cast: Idris Elba, Rebecca Ferguson, Gabriel Basso**

Kathryn Bigelow specialises in dread. Of the low, humming sort. Never in your face, but you can feel the terror pulsing away somewhere within you. Remember 'The Hurt Locker' (2008)? Or even 'Zero Dark Thirty' (2012)? Her latest, 'A House of Dynamite', has her signature all over it. This is a political thriller that treats the familiar premise of an imminent nuclear strike on the United States with unusual restraint. And therein lies its triumph and its weakness.

The film is 18 minutes of impending doom replayed from several perspectives — not exactly a Rashomon effect but bold nonetheless. It works quite brilliantly till it does not. By the time you reach the last half hour, the tension weakens to only pick up in the last 10 minutes or so.

This is not your garden variety "Go! Go! Go!" thriller. The action occurs in sterile situation rooms and consoles. There are no blazing guns or exploding bombs — only protocol and procedure that create a sense of bleak, inevitable urgency. Idris Elba is pitch-perfect as the relatively new president caught between duty and despair, while the rest of the ensemble cast does a solid job, too.

Rebecca Ferguson plays a senior officer in the White House Situation Room.

The repetitive loops do fray your patience, but if you forgive this conceit, the film is a cautionary tale that feels terribly real and unreal at the same time. And there is no closure, and that's not a spoiler — the 'ending' is a mirror held to the house of dynamite we all reside in. A hat tip to the terrific background score.

## Bee Magical wins P Hadow Trophy

**PUNE RESULTS**

Imtiaz Sait-trained Bee Magical, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, won the P Hadow Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races on Friday.

**1. AJ Wadia Plate - 1400M:** Lion King (C Umesh) 1; Yuletide (Mustakim Alam) 2; Marlboro Man (Antony Raj) 3; Anaira (Merchant) 4; WB: 2, 4-1/2, 4-1/2L; T: 1:26.47; TB: Shazaan Shah; Fav: Yuletide.

**2. Maddox Plate - 1000M:** Foxy (Sandesh) 1; Majestic Warrior (Avinash Paswan) 2; Viennoise (A Omkar) 3; Rafael (Ramswarup) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 1-1/4L; T: 57.36. TB: Behram Cama K; Fav: Foxy.

**3. To The Manor Born Plate (Div I) - 1400M:** Semburg (Merchant) 1; Machiavellian (Antony Raj) 2; Majesticus (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Lara (CS Jodha) 4; NR: Claude; WB: 4, 3/4, 2-1/2L; T: 1:26.14; TB: Himmat Singh; Fav: Majesticus.

**4. Shamu Chavan Salver (Div II) - 1600M:** Come September (Mustakim Alam) 1; Duesenberg (C Umesh) 2; Sands Of Dubai (Santosh) 3; Royal Champ (A Prakash) 4; WB: 1, 9-3/4L, Lnk; T: 1:38.34; TB: Narendra Lagad; Fav: Duesenberg.

**5. P Hadow Trophy - 1200M:** Bee Magical (Neeraj Rawal) 1; Lord Eric (Antony Raj) 2; Abhicandra (Sandesh) 3; Aperol (CS Jodha) 4; WB: 3/4, 3/4, 1-1/2L; T: 1:08.52; TB: Imtiaz Sait; Fav: Bee Magical.

**6. Shamu Chavan Salver (Div II) - 1600M:** Looking Like A Wow (Ramswarup) 1; Exciting (G Vivek) 2; Little John (Antony Raj) 3; Alle Etoile (Mustakim Alam) 4; WB: 1-1/4, Nk, Nk; T: 1:39.28; TB: Subhag Singh; Fav: Little John.

**7. To The Manor Born Plate (Div II) - 1400M:** Hazel (G Vivek) 1; Jackson (Sandesh) 2; Magical Moments (Mustakim Alam) 3; Desert Charm (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 8-1/4, 2-3/4, 2L; T: 1:26.11; TB: Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Hazel.

**8. Star Millionaire Plate - 1200M:** Samson (Mustakim Alam) 1; Menjou's Moustache (CS Jodha) 2; We Still Believe (Pranil) 3; Windborne (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 2-1/4, 1-1/4, 1/2L; T: 1:10.30; TB: Narendra Lagad; Fav: Samson.

**Bengaluru dividends**

**I race:** Rs 24w; 11, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 70; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 22; Tri: Rs 52 & 43; Ex: Rs 341 & 268.

**II race:** Rs 14w; 10, 20, 18p; Fc: Rs 128; Q: Rs 70; Shp: Rs 69; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 400 & 169; Ex: Rs 1,778 & 609.

**III race:** Rs 147w; 34, 11, 10p; Fc: Rs 1,023; Q: Rs 226; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 1,161 & 711; Ex: Rs 20,371 & 17,461.

**IV race:** Rs 63w; 21, 10, 17p; Fc: Rs 196; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 66; Tri: Rs 881 & 416: Ex: Rs 7,458 & 3,995.

**V race:** Rs 15w; 10, 13, 21p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 29; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 143 & 80; Ex: Rs 234 & 88.

**VI race:** Rs 143w; 27, 20, 12p; Fc: Rs 1,051; Q: Rs 225; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 1,385 & 593; Ex: Rs 6,772 & 6,772.

**VII race:** Rs 17w; 10, 10, 26p; Fc: Rs 31; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 125 & 83; Ex: Rs 223 & 53.

**VIII race:** Rs 26w; 10, 19, 15p; Fc: Rs 195; Q: Rs 81; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 277 & 79; Ex: Rs 430 & 236.

**Jackpot:** Rs 23,280 (20). **Runner-up:** Rs 2,851 (70). **I treble:** Rs 1,627 (4). **II treble:** Rs 1,354 (7).

## Siege Courageous for main event

**MYSURU SELECTIONS**

Prasanna Kumar-trained Siege Courageous will garner the maximum support in the Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup, the feature event of the Mysuru races to be run over a mile at the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

**1. Hastinapura Plate - 1400M:** Alluring Beauty 1; Gentleman's Word 2; Sian 3.

**2. Sri C Sashachalam Memorial Trophy - 1400M:** Baltimore 1; Double Vision 2; Mega Success 3.

**3. RM Puttanna Memorial Trophy - 1200M:** Supernal 1; The One And Only 2; Prince Of Wales 3.

**4. KT Shamaiah Gowda Memorial Trophy - 1400M:** Little Minister 1; Isabelle 2; Klimt 3.

**5. HP Vishwanathan Memorial Trophy - 1400M:** Divine Art 1; Forseti 2; Vandhiyathevan 3.

**6. Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup - 1400M:** Siege Courageous 1; Snowfall 2; Shamrock 3.

**7. Bottolonda Mittoo Chengappa Memorial Trophy - 1600M:** Anigraha 1; Freedom Touch 2; Baashha 3.

**8. Sharan Lakshman Gowda Memorial Trophy - 1200M:** Maybury 1; One Diamond 2; Thiea 3.

**Day's best:** Supernal.

**Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 3, 4 & 5. **III treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

## Hansika, Sarika in final; 4 others win bronze

**NOVI SAD (SERBIA), PTI:** Extending Indian women's impressive run in the women's event at the U23 World Wrestling Championships, Hansika Lamba and Sarika Malik put themselves in line to become the country's latest world champions by reaching the finals while four other women wrestlers grabbed bronze medals, here Friday.

Hansika won by a huge 11-0 margin against Spain's Carla Jaume Soler. She will next clash with Japan's Haruna Morikawa for the 53kg title.

Sarika downed Poland's Olha Padoshuk with a 12-6 scoreline. She is now up against Japan's Ruka Natami.

Neha Sharma blanked Hungary's Roza Szenttamasi 5-0 in the 57kg bronze play-off while Nishu (55kg) beat Ukraine's Albina Rillia 3-1 and Pulkit (65kg) overpowered Hungary's Eniko Elekes 8-4 to finish third.

Srishti (68kg) beat Hungary's Karolina Pokto pick up another bronze.

**CRICKET RANJI TROPHY**

# Karnataka eye crucial points against Goa

### With rain-threat looming, hosts look to make most of first home game

**VIGNESH BHARADWAJ**
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal (right) and Goa all-rounder Arjun Tendulkar during a practice session on the eve of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match at the KSCA Navule Stadium in Shivamogga on Friday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

For a few years now, Karnataka have struggled to consistently push the big boys in domestic circuit. While there is enough potential in their change room to maintain a dominant streak, they have often fallen short of expectations; perhaps their own.

Karnataka, in keeping with their displays of the recent past, endured a similar reality check against Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy opener, proving the flaws are very much intact.

As it turned out, the game twisted and turned before Saurashtra eked out innings lead by four runs.

About 1,450 kilometres south of Rajkot, Shivamogga's KSCA Navule Stadium, Karnataka will host an in-form Goa side in their second Elite Group B fixture.

The good news is that India's premier domestic competition will return to the city five years after Karnataka vs MP match in 2020. The bad news, however, is that the weather gods also want a piece of it, with cloudy conditions and rain interruptions likely on all four days.

Karnataka will be without Devdutt Padikkal, who has been included in India A squad for the two four-dayers against South Africa A in Bengaluru and the hosts have named the young Yashovardhan Parantap as his replacement.

However, the primary focus will be on the other youngsters: Nikin Jose, who looked good in patches and Aneesh KV, who is expected to replace Padikkal in the XI.

With an experienced batter already short, what Karnataka will want is for their senior pros to stand up and be counted.

Karun Nair looked in fine touch while Mayank Agarwal looked fidgety before hitting his stride in the second innings in Rajkot.

While the utility players are the glue that binds any unit, it is the big names that give it backbone.

The bright spot for Karnataka is that answers emerged from the spin bowling questions.

All 10 wickets of Saurashtra's first innings were picked up by the spinners, which was the first instance for Karnataka since 2018-19. And in the second, they bagged five more.

They have been skating on thin ice insofar as spin is concerned but Shikhar Shetty and Mohsin Khan's ability to bowl long hours and tie up one end, has injected some much-needed promise.

Karnataka are also back to full fitness, with Vyshak Vijayakumar named in the 15, after missing the first game due to injury. But it remains to be seen if the hosts will rush him back. Vidwath Kaverappa, however, is expected to walk straight into the XI for one of Mohsin or Shikhar.

### Happy homecoming?

Vasuki Koushik gently floated 130 kph deliveries around the fifth stump, but still made medium pace look lethal, forcing Karnataka to sit up and take notice.

After confirming his move to Goa after seven years with Karnataka, the 32-year-old could be in for a potential debut against his former side, having missed the first game due to personal reasons.

**Karnataka (probable XI):** Mayank Agarwal (c), Nikin Jose, Aneesh KV, Karun Nair, Smaran R, Shrijith KL (wk), Shreyas Gopal, Venkatesh M, Vyshak Vijayakumar/Abhilash Shetty, Shikhar Shetty/Mohsin Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa.

**Goa squad:** Snehal Kauthankar. Deepraj Gaonkar, Lalit Yadav, Samar Dubhashi, Suyash Prabhudessai, Manthan Khutkar, Kashyap Bhake, Vasuki Koushik, Darshan Misal, Mohit Redkar, Arjun Tendulkar, Abhinav Tejrana, Heramb Parab, Vikash Singh, Ishaan Gadekar, Rajashekhar Harikant, Vijesh Prabhudesai.

**Other Group B fixtures**: Saurashtra vs Madhya Pradesh (Rajkot); Punjab vs Kerala (New Chandigarh); Chandigarh vs Maharashtra (Chandigarh).

## Lakshya, Diksha, Shaina in quarters

**CHENGDU (CHINA), PTI:** India's Lakshya Rajesh, Diksha Sudhakar and Shaina Manimuthu stormed into the girls' quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia U-17 and U-15 Championships here on Friday.

The sixth seed Diksha showed her composure while outclassing Chinese Taipei's Pin Hsuan Chiang 21-19, 21-15 to secure a last-eight berth in the U-17 segment.

Lakshya also entered the U-17 quarterfinals with a strong 21-16, 21-11 win over Korea's Lee Yun Seo.

In the U-15 pre-quarterfinals, top seed Manimuthu ousted China's Li Man Lin 21-17, 21-16 with commanding control. from start to finish.

In the girls' doubles, Aditi Deepak Raj and BV Ponnamma Vriddhi held their nerve to edge past Korea's Lee Yun Seo and Park Yoo Jeong 17-21, 21-15, 21-17.

In boys' doubles, Charan Ram Thippana and Hari Krishna Veeramreddy produced a clinical 21-14, 21-8 victory against Japan's Kosuke Shinohara and Hiroto Nakatsuka.

Jagsher Singh Khangurra eased past Malaysia's Winson Choh 21-12, 21-17 in singles.

In the U-15 boys' singles, Wazir Singh narrowly missed out on a quarterfinal berth after his valiant went in vain after 19-21, 22-20, 22-24 loss to seventh seed Revan Adrilleo Saputra of Indonesia.

## Barman's brace spurs BDUFC

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following a goalless first-half, Jai Hari Barman's brace in the second half saw Bangalore Dream United FC post their second win of the tournament after downing Bangalore City FC 3-1 at the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

It was BCFC who took the lead courtesy Mohammed Habeel's strike in the 40th minute. However, that advantage was neutralised by Barman's first goal in the 55th minute. His team-mate K Larinfela then found the back of the net after five minutes to double BDUFC's lead.

Barman then rounded off the tally with an 89th minute effort for his second goal to give his team, who lying 17th on the table after 11 matches, a comprehensive victory.

In the other match of the day, Azfar Noorani's double (55th, 57th) and Dawanchwa Carlos Challam's 20th-minute goal helped a 16th-placed FC Agniputhra stun seventh-placed United Stars FC 3-0.

**Results:** Bangalore Dream United FC: 3 (Jai Hari Barman 55th, 89th, K Larinfela 60th) bt Bangalore City FC: 1 (Mohammed Habeel 40th); Kickstart FC: 2 (Dawanchwa Carlos Challam 20th, Saikhom Borish Singh 29th) bt Parikrma FC: 0; FC Agniputhra: 3 (Dhanush R 40th, Azfar Noorani 55th, 57th) bt United Stars FC: 0.

Bangalore Dream United FC's Mohammed Rayan (right) and Bangalore City FC's Ankit Mane fight for possession during their KSFA Super Division League championship at the BFS on Friday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

## Hockey A teams sign off China tour on a high

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The India men's and women's A hockey teams concluded their respective international exposure tours of China on a high note, showcasing promising performances and gaining valuable experience against competitive local opposition sides.

The India A men's hockey team played a four-match series against Gansu Club from October 12 to 18 in Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province, registering emphatic wins in all their fixtures.

Lalage finished as the top scorer for the India A men's team, with a total of four goals in as many matches, closely followed by Sanjay, Karthi, Kenche and Angad Bir Singh, who scored three goals each in the series.

Meanwhile, the India A women's team finished with four draws and a loss against local side Liaoning from October 13 to 21 at the Liaoning Sports Centre in Dalian.

## Shot putter Samardeep shatters meet record

RANCHI, PTI

Samardeep Singh Gill. X

Rising Indian shot putter Samardeep Singh Gill broke the meet record while winning gold as the host country and Sri Lanka shared the spoils on the opening day of the South Asian Athletics Federation Senior Championships here on Friday.

India swept the men's and women's 5000m gold but the Sri Lankans ran away with yellow metals in both the men's and women's 100m dash at the Birsa Munda Stadium.

Gill, the flag bearer of the Indian team during the opening ceremony earlier in the day, delivered a commanding throw of 19.59m to win the gold. The previous meet record was a lowly 17.71m set by S Kumar Singh in the 2008 edition.

Ravi Kumar, also of India, finished second with 17.95m while Sri Lanka's Mithunraj took the bronze medal.

In the women's shot put, India's Dinesh V missed out on the gold, settling for silver with a best throw of 16.14m, 5cm behind Sri Lanka's Ashmika Keshan, who claimed the top spot.

In the men's 5000m race, India's Prince Kumar clocked 14 minute 22.17 seconds to secure the gold. India continued its dominance in the women's 5000m race, with Sanjana Singh clinching the gold medal, followed by compatriot Seema, who took silver, marking a 1-2 finish for the home country in the event.

Yodasinghege Chamo of Sri Lanka became the fastest man of the meet, winning gold with a time of 10.30 seconds while India's Pranav Gurav and Harsh Raut were second and third with 10.32 seconds and 10.42 seconds respectively.

The title of fastest woman of the meet went to Mohammad Yamick of Sri Lanka with a time of 11.53 seconds. Compatriot Dewa Thanuji Amasha was second with 11.72 seconds in Sri Lankan 1-2 finish. India's Sudeshna Shivankar took the bronze, clocking 11.78 seconds.

## Bhullar stays close to leaders

**MANILA, PTI:** India's Gaganjeet Bhullar stayed in contention as Sarit Suwannarut increased his advantage on top of the leaderboard to four shots at the halfway stage of the USD 2 million International Series Philippines here on Friday.

The two-time International Series winner added a six-under 66 to his overnight 64 and reached 14-under par after 36 holes, four ahead of local hero Miguel Tabuena (65).

### Tvesa is even par

Tvesa Malik was the lead Indian at T-19th on a rain affected opening day of the Wistron Ladies Open, in Taipei on Friday.

Malik played through eight holes when play was suspended due to weather and made par on all the holes.

### Anshul impresses

Reigning All India Amateur champion, Anshul Mishra, was in sight of a top-10 finish in his maiden appearance at the 16th Asia Pacific Amateur Championship in Dubai on Friday.

The Kolkata-based Mishra, who opened with an even par 72, shot 3-under 69 to get to 3-under for two days and was placed tied 13th.

## More medals added to India's tally from athletics

**RIFFA (BAHRAIN), PTI:** India's athletics contingent ensured a steady flow of medals, grabbing four podium finishes including two silver through Edwina Jason and Oshin, to maintain the country's fifth position at the ongoing Asian Youth Games, here on Friday.

Edwina Jason. X

With two silver and two bronze from the track and field events, India's overall tally rose to two gold, five silver and eight bronze medals (2-5-8) at the continental event.

In the girls' 400m final, Edwina Jason clocked 55.43 seconds to clinch the silver medal, finishing 1.17 seconds behind Aisha Tariq of the UAE, who took gold. Wu Chia-Ying of Chinese Taipei claimed the bronze in 56.60 seconds.

In the girls' discus throw, Oshin added another silver for India with a best effort of 43.38m. Xinyi Wang of China dominated the event with a throw of 55.38m to win gold, while Shih Yuh-Jhen of Chinese Taipei settled for bronze with 43.00m.

Palash Mandal secured a bronze medal in the 5000m walk to open India's account in athletics on the day. He clocked 24:48.92s.

The event was dominated by China, with Haoze Zhang (21:43.82s) and Yujie Lu (22:28.64s) taking the gold and silver medals respectively.

Zubin Gohain added another bronze medal for India in the boys' high jump, clearing 2.03m on his second attempt after a smooth progression through 1.85m, 1.89m, 1.93m, 1.97m, 1.99m and 2.01m.

The 15-year-old Assam jumper showed fine consistency before faltering at 2.05m, which he failed to clear in all three attempts.

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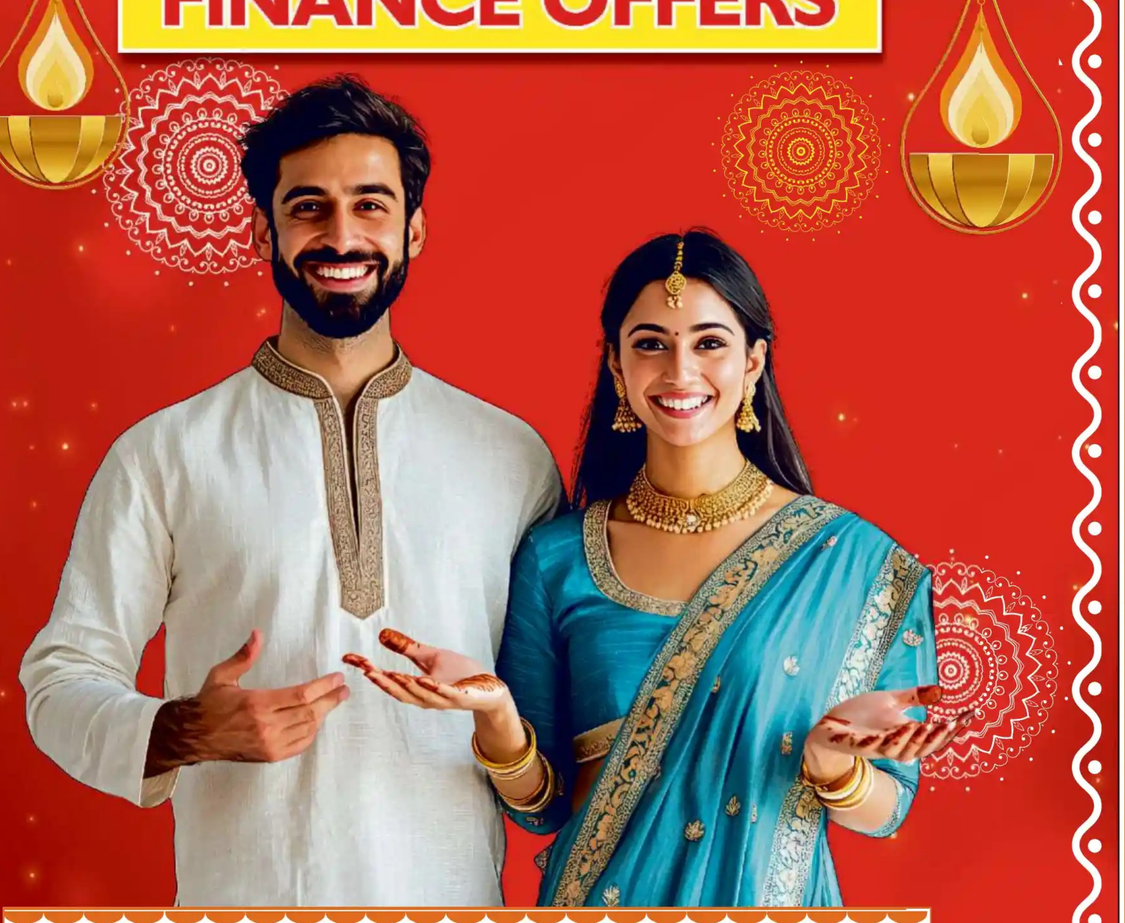

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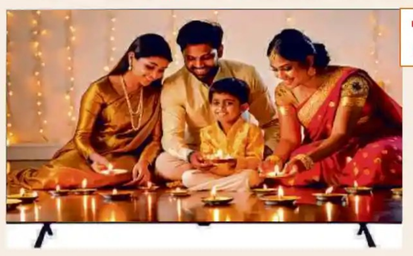


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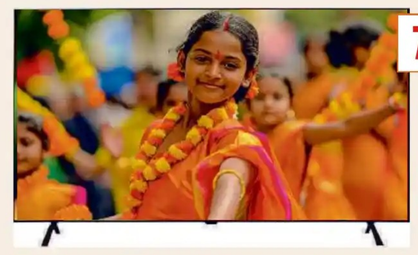


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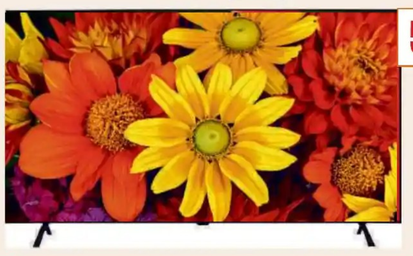


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## Pakistan withdraw from Jr Hockey World Cup in India

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Pakistan has pulled out of the Junior Hockey World Cup to be held in India in November-December, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed to PTI on Friday.

FIH said Pakistan's replacement team for the November 28-December 10 event, to be held in Chennai and Madurai, will be announced soon.

"We can confirm that the Pakistan Hockey Federation has notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that its team initially qualified for the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 won't participate eventually," FIH said in a statement released to PTI.

"The team replacing Pakistan for this event will be announced soon," the statement added.

Pakistan were placed in Group B alongside India, Chile and Switzerland, and it remains to be seen which team replaces them. This is the second event in India that Pakistan has pulled out from after the men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar held from August 29 to September 7 this year.

The sporting ties between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor.

CRICKET THIRD ODI

# Ro-Ko's last dance Down Under

### Smarting India fret over bowling combination

SYDNEY, PTI

The emotional quotient will be at an all-time high with a lot of moistened eyes expected to witness an embattled Virat Kohli and his partner in many a fight Rohit Sharma playing what could be their last appearance on Australian soil in the third ODI here on Saturday.

While Rohit Sharma has rightfully earned some breathing space with a fighting 73 off 97 balls albeit in a lost cause, Kohli's back-to-back ducks, his first ever in international cricket, has definitely made his die-hard fans contemplate whether this is the beginning of the end.

Rohit first came here for the CB Series in 2007-08 while Kohli's first tour with the senior team was in the 2011-12 season when he made an instant impact with a Test century at Adelaide.

With no ODI series in Australia in the next two years, it is impossible to think that the duo will again be seen Down Under in India blues.

Virat Kohli (right) and Rohit Sharma, who in all likelihood would play their final international game in Australia on Saturday, will be hoping to sign off on a high note. AFP

Whether Kohli, in particular, continues to play post Australia series is a matter of conjecture but the final ODI at the iconic SCG will be more than a mere "dead rubber".

However at SCG, the fans would want those punchy cover drives to come out of the closet and a few of those on-drives and the inside-out lofted shot over extra cover from the modern-day legend.

The match is of consequence as the Gautam Gambhir-coached Indian team looks to avoid a 0-3 whitewash, which will certainly not look great although the ODI World Cup is a good two years away.

To make matters worse, in the last five ODIs between India and Australia at the SCG, the 'Men in Blue' have won only once.

Skipper Shubman Gill and Kohli are both due for a big knock and Gambhir will expect both to fire in the final game.

Clinically outwitted in the last two games, a battered Indian team will be keen to revisit its template of shoring up the batting at the cost of compromising with bowling resources, especially ignoring a genuine match-winner like Kuldeep Yadav, who could have been more than a handful at the Adelaide Oval where the Australian batters struggled to read Axar Patel and Washington Sundar.

The current Indian team has been bullish about playing multi-skilled cricketers but most of them are bordering on being bits-and-pieces players.

Someone like Nitish Kumar Reddy remains under-utilised at No. 8 in the batting order and his deliveries, in early and mid-120s, hardly have had any venom to trouble international standard batters on a regular basis. In the case of Harshit Rana, the marked drop in pace in his second and third spells speaks volumes about why he isn't yet ready for international cricket. To come back and bowl second and third spells with the same intensity only comes with years of toil in red-ball cricket, bowling in different match situations and in different conditions.

Prasidh Krishna's presence in the playing eleven is the need of the hour. From the first two games, the only takeaway has been Axar Patel punching above his weight.

### Beyond boundaries

**Record in D/N ODIs in Sydney**

| India | | Australia |
|---|---|---|
| 21 | Mats | 131 |
| 5 | Won | 88 |
| 15 | Lost | 38 |
| 1 | No Res | 5 |
| 23.8% | Win% | 67.2% |

**Results in last 5 D/N ODIs in Sydney**
Australia (oldest to most recent) | Won, Won, Won, Won, Won
India (oldest to most recent) | Lost, Won, Lost, Lost, Lost

**Most wins for Team in D/N ODIs at a venue**

| Team | Venue | Wins |
|---|---|---|
| Aus | Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney | 88 (131 Mats) |
| SL | R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo | 64 (109 Mats) |
| Aus | Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne | 62 (90 Mats) |
| Pak | Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah | 37 (58 Mats) |
| Ban | Shere Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur | 34 (76 Mats) |

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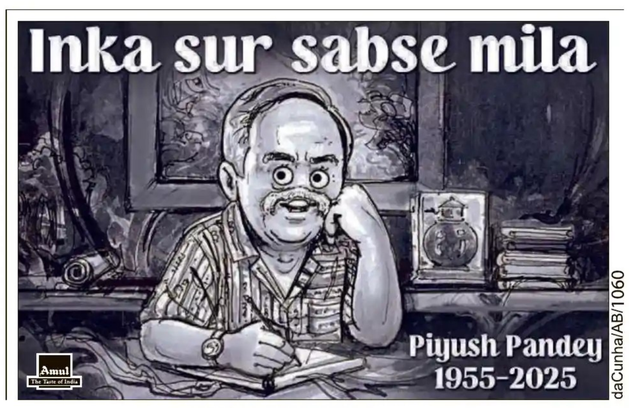
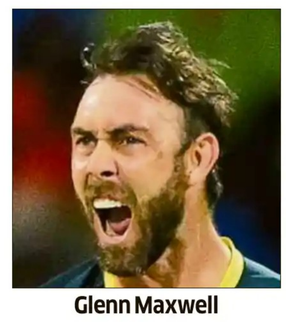


Glenn Maxwell

## Maxwell set to return for T20I series vs India

**SYDNEY, PTI:** Charismatic Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is set to return for the T20I series against India after recovering from a fractured wrist, while young pacer Mahli Beardman is a surprise pick in the squad for the high-stakes clash beginning in Canberra on October 29.

The five-match T20I series, to be played after the ongoing ODIs, will see the 37-year-old Maxwell and Beardman available for selection for the last three games, while pace stalwart Josh Hazlewood and bowling allrounder Sean Abbott will be available for the first two and three games respectively.

Maxwell suffered a wrist fracture while bowling in the nets ahead of Australia's three-match T20I series in New Zealand in September.

Beardman is a notable pick for the series against India following the 20-year-old's commendable performance in the five List A games and two Big Bash matches he has played.

He was the star of the Australian U-19 World Cup-winning side in 2024, bagging three wickets in the final. He also toured England with the senior ODI side last year but was not included in the playing XI.

Meanwhile, Australia have drafted pace bowling all-rounder Jack Edwards and left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann in the squad for the third and final ODI against India, scheduled to be played here on Saturday,

IN AND AROUND

## Achintya, Pratham star for Beagles

▸ Achintya and Pratham scored 22 points each as Beagles BC edged out Mangalore BC 73-67 in the men's State A Division League Championship for Prof NC Parappa memorial ever rolling trophy at MNK Rao Park BC grounds on Friday, reports DHNS.

**Results:** Beagles BC: 73 (Achintya 22, Pratham 22) bt Mangalore BC: 67 (Prastik 17); Bank of Baroda: 108 (Anilkumar 18, Navin 14) bt JSC: 63 (Santosh 20, Tyagi 10); DYES Bangalore: 95 (Likith 25, Kushal 22) bt Vivek's SC: 58 (Nithin 17, James 15).

## SWR romp past Army Boys

▸ Kumar N and Pavan Madivalar scored a brace each as South Western Railway, Hubballi trounced Army Boys Sports Company, MEG 5-1 in the 9th Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Friday, reports DHNS.

**Results:** South Western Railway, Hubballi: 5 (Kumar N 24th, 58th, Punith R 38th, Pavan Madivalar 41st, 56th) bt Army Boys Sports Company, MEG: 1 (Arkit Barua 40th); Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports 'A': 3 (Aryan Uthappa MT 22nd, Yathish Kumar B 29th, Shivakumarraya Pujar 33rd) bt Karnataka State Police: 1 (Manikanta Bijwad 5th).

◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**3rd ODI:** Australia vs India **(9 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.**

**Women's WC:** Australia vs South Africa **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

**Ranji Trophy (league phase):** Bengal vs Gujarat, Saurashtra vs Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai vs Chhattisgarh **(all 9:30 am, day 1)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**Senior Women's T20 Trophy:** Karnataka vs Delhi **(11 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**FOOTBALL**

**EPL:** Chelsea vs Sunderland, Newcastle vs Fulham **(both 7:30 pm)**, Man United vs Brighton **(10 pm)**, Brentford vs Liverpool **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**BADMINTON**

**French Open Super 750:** Semifinals **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**KABADDI**

**PKL (play-offs):** Haryana Steelers vs Jaipur Pink Panthers **(8 pm)**, U Mumba vs Patna Pirates **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

# Pratika hitting the right notes in her duet with Smriti

### Young opener has forged a strong partnership with veteran Smriti

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

India's Smriti Mandhana (right) and Pratika Rawal, with their seventh century stand and fifth in 2025 in the win over New Zealand, are amongst the most prolific opening pairs in one-day internationals now. AFP

It has been less than a year since they joined forces, but India openers Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal have forged an extremely successful partnership at the top.

On Thursday, the pair's batting prowess was once again on show as they set the platform for the team's semifinal qualification in the Women's World Cup with a record 212-run partnership.

India vice-captain Smriti and Pratika put the New Zealand bowling attack to the sword, smashing fine centuries to set up a 53-run win (DLS Method) in a rain-affected game.

This was their seventh century stand and fifth in 2025 since they paired in December last year.

Smriti's 95-ball 105 and Pratika's 122 from 134 deliveries powered India to a massive 340/3 — the highest total by any team in this World Cup — as India crushed New Zealand to make the final four.

The pair's 212-run stand is now India's highest in Women's World Cup history, as the duo has so far put on 1,799 runs together in 23 innings.

Pratika said the partnership has blossomed because both the players have great understanding between them.

"The conversations are pretty simple. She lets me do what I do best and I do not interfere in whatever she does best," Pratika told the media after the match.

"The whole conversation that happens when we are batting is the calculation part — how much to get in order to set up a big total and when we are chasing how to break down (the chase) into fewer parts so that we can chase it easily.

"She is pretty good with calculations and I like to chip in with whatever she has to say to me. I think it is both ways, so we like to keep it pretty simple," said Pratika, who became the joint-fastest with Australia's Lindsay Reeler to complete 1,000 ODI runs in 23 innings.

Pratika praised Jemimah Rodrigues' quick-fire 76 not out off 55 deliveries on her home ground, which gave a huge boost to India's total. "She did an amazing job. She got those runs which we needed the most. She is the home girl. She has played a lot of cricket here and she knows everything around here," Rawal said.

Pratika said she struggled initially to connect the ball but she kept her composure, which helped her overcome the difficult phase.

## Australia, SA clash for the top spot

**INDORE, PTI:** Australia would be hoping their "three-in-one" skipper Alyssa Healy is fit and raring to go in the top-of-the-table Women's World Cup clash here on Saturday against South Africa, who have displayed remarkable resilience and fortitude to emerge as strong contenders for the prestigious trophy.

Healy, who performs the triple role of captain, opener and wicketkeeper, had suffered a calf injury during training ahead of the match against England here on Wednesday with Tahlia McGrath leading the seven-time champions to a big win against the arch-rivals.

With the Proteas showing the intent to go the distance this time around by winning five consecutive games after the 10-wicket humiliation by England in the opener, the 35-year-old Healy's fitness becomes all the more important to counter the threat as she has been in great touch with the bat in the tournament. Healy scored back-to-back centuries, against India and Bangladesh.

### SL-Pak tie called off

The match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan was called off due to rain in Colombo on Friday. This is the tournament's fifth match that has ended in no result at this venue.

# India can drive women's cricket forward: Devine

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

With WPL finding its pride of place in the calendar, India in future can be at the forefront of where women's cricket can potentially reach, legendary New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine **(in pic)** said after her team's defeat to India which dashed their hopes of reaching World Cup semifinal.

Devine, who captained New Zealand in her fifth World Cup, is set to retire from ODIs on Sunday as the White Ferns crashed out of the race to semifinals with a huge loss to India here.

"We've got to be realistic about is (that) these things don't happen overnight. We're not like India. We don't have one billion people to be able to call upon. We're literally a small country at the bottom of the world with five million people," she said when asked about domestic cricket in New Zealand can improve.

"You guys have got a billion people here, and how you work your domestic systems and structure is going to be very, very different to how we do it back in New Zealand."

"I'm really excited about where the future of the women's game goes, the support, the attention that it's had over here is really exciting, and I think India can be at the forefront of where the women's game can go. We've obviously seen the WPL and the level of interest in that," she added.

Devine, however, said her job of stepping aside becomes easier knowing New Zealand have a good bench strength.

"When you think about the likes of Izzy (Isabelle Gaze), Brooke (Halliday), Melie Kerr (Amelia Kerr) (and) Eden Carson, the way that they're starting to really grow into themselves, it certainly makes it easier when I do step away."

| Team | Played | Won | Lost | N/R | NRR | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia (Q) | 6 | **5** | 0 | 1 | **+1.704** | 11 |
| S Africa (Q) | 6 | **5** | 1 | 0 | **+0.276** | 10 |
| England (Q) | 6 | **4** | 1 | 1 | **+1.024** | 9 |
| **India (Q)** | **6** | **3** | **3** | **0** | **+0.628** | **6** |
| Sri Lanka | 7 | **1** | 3 | 3 | **-1.035** | 5 |
| New Zealand | 6 | **1** | 3 | 2 | **-0.490** | 4 |
| Pakistan | 7 | **0** | 4 | 3 | **-2.651** | 3 |
| Bangladesh | 6 | **1** | 5 | 0 | **-0.578** | 2 |

Nakshath, astride Vibrato, won the show jumping 110-115 cm gold in the inaugural Inter-state Equestrian Competition at EIRS.

## Nakshath wins show jumping gold

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Karnataka's Nakshath Venkatesh, astride Vibrato, won the show jumping 110-115 cm gold in the inaugural Inter-state Equestrian Competition at Embassy International Riding School here.

**Results: Elementary Dressage:** Isabella Hasleder (Lady Ann, THRA) 1; Samanna Everaa (Sechsrichtige, THRA) 2; Isabella Hasleder (Dark Delight, THRA) 3.

**Novice Dressage:** Tasha Neethirajan (Dark Delight, THRA) 1; Shubh Chowdhari (Lady Ann, THRA) 2; Hashini B (Best of Blaze, THRA) 3.

**Prelim Dressage:** Kevin Gabriel (Sechsrichtige, THRA) 1; Dishant A Kumar (Kannjo, EIRS) 2; Pranav Deepak (Star Proof, THRA) 3.

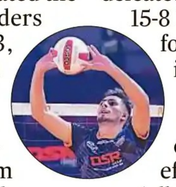
**SJ 80–90 cm:** Eshaan Sundaram (Klaver, EIRS) 1; Arya Channagiri (Bhima, FSS) 2; Ram Reddy Botta (Teazy, TSEA) 3.

**SJ 100-105 cm:** Bhargav Babu Velkur (Gucci Do Axe, EIRS) 1; Shubh Chowdhari (Darcy, THRA) 2; Dishant A Kumar (Kannjo, EIRS) 3.

**SJ 110-115 cm:** Nakshath Venkatesh (Vibrato, Zippy) 1; Kiran Akhade (Dolce Vita, URB) 2; Sriram (Icon, THRA) 3.

## Torpedoes march into PVL final

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru Torpedoes defeated the Ahmedabad Defenders 10-15, 15-11, 15-13, 15-13 in the second semifinal of the Prime Volleyball League at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.



The Torpedoes will play in the final on Sunday against the Mumbai Meteors, who defeated Goa Guardians 15-8 15-8 16-14 in the first last-four encounter earlier in the day.

Bengaluru Torpedoes' setter Sandeep **(in pic)** made efficient passes, especially towards the end, to be named the player of the match.

## Rybakina seals WTA Finals spot

**TOKYO, AFP:** Elena Rybakina (in pic) clinched the eighth and last spot at next month's WTA Finals when she beat Victoria Mboko 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on Friday to reach the Pan Pacific semifinals in Tokyo.

The 2022 Wimbledon champion joins the elite field in Saudi Arabia after a successful run that saw her win the Ningbo Open in China last week.

# Eagles soar high in wild weather

LONDON, AFP

Sean Dyche got off to a winning start as Nottingham Forest boss thanks to two penalties to beat Porto 2-0 in the Europa League, while Aston Villa were stunned 2-1 by Go Ahead Eagles on Thursday.

Forest, who sacked Ange Postecoglou after just 40 days and eight games in charge on Saturday, had not won in 10 games stretching back to the opening weekend of the Premier League season. But Dyche, who began his playing career at the two-time European champions, roused an immediate impact, even if Forest needed some fortune from VAR interventions to get the better of the Portuguese giants.

Go Ahead Eagles' Mats Deijl celebrates after scoring the winner against Aston Villa during their Europa League game at De Adelaarshorst in Netherlands on Thursday. REUTERS

Villa boss Unai Emery said his side were taught a lesson in the difficulties of European football after their perfect Europa League start came to a surprise end in the Netherlands. However, in wild weather conditions, the home side secured a famous win in their first ever experience of group stage European football.

**Results:** Sporting Braga: 2 (Navarro 22nd, Dorgeles 72nd) bt Red Star Belgrade: 0; Brann: 3 (Kornvig 40th, Sorensen 55th, Holm 79th) bt Rangers: 0; FCSB: 1 (Birligea 54th) lt to Bologna: 2 (Odgaard 9th, Dallinga 12th); Fenerbahce: 1 (Akturkoglu 34th) bt Stuttgart: 0; Go Ahead Eagles: 2 (Suray 42nd, Deijl 61st) bt Aston Villa: 1 (Guessand 4th); Genk: 0 drew with Real Betis: 0; Lyon: 2 (Tolisso 3rd, Moreira 90th) bt Basel: 0; Salzburg: 2 (Baidoo 13th, Vertessen 72nd) lt to Ferencvaros: 3 (Varga 50th, Zachariassen 56th, Yusuf 58th); Feyenoord: 3 (Read 45+2, Hadj Moussa 55th, Larin 90th) bt Panathinaikos: 1 (Swiderski 18th); Roma: 1 (Dybala 54th) lt to Viktoria Plzen:2 (Adu 20th, Souare 22nd); Celta Vigo: 2 (Aspas 2nd, Peprah Oppong 75 og) bt Nice: 1 (Cho 16th); Celtic: 2 (Scales 61st, Nygren 64th) bt Sturm Graz: 1 (Horvat 15th); Freiburg: 2 (Suzuki 20th, Grifo 45th) bt Utrecht: 0; Lille: 3 (Andre 57th, Igamane 68th, 78th) lt to PAOK: 4 (Meite 18th, Zivkovic 23rd, 74th, Konstantelias 42nd); Maccabi Tel Aviv: 0 lt to Midtjylland: 3 (Dju 43rd, 84th, Billing 71st); Malmo: 1 (Lewicki 45+1) drew with Dinamo Zagreb: 1 (Varela 90+6); Nottingham Forest: 2 (Gibbs-White 19th, Jesus 77th) bt Porto: 0; Young Boys: 3 (Ravelosen 45th, Fassnacht 53rd, Bedia 63rd) bt Ludogorets: 2 (Stanic 26th, Yordanov 90+2).

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# Wknd.

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**Show Buzz** | Abhilash Thapliyal

# 'My discipline and punctuality give me an edge over others...'

If I could, I would make myself a superstar so that the actor in me can get more chances to work with great directors.

An RJ turned actor, Abhilash Thapliyal sprung to fame with his outings in OTT and movies, including Maidaan, Kennedy, Faadu, TFV Aspirants, Blurr... From Uttarakhand to Mumbai, he has charted an enviable journey in the world of acting. His journey began with a local radio station, and was soon monikered 'Mumbai Ka Sabse Bada Struggler' due to his cheerful banter and sense of humour, winning fans across the country. Cut to 2025. From comic roles to poignant characters, Abhilash has enthralled audiences with his riveting performances and great screen presence.

**Shilpi Madan** caught up with the actor for this chat.

**What is that biggest takeaway from your fauji background that holds you in good stead?**
Watching my father serve in the Indian army, I grew up inculcating discipline and punctuality. These are two things that are a rarity in the industry and give me an edge over others.

**What does Mumbai mean to you?**
Mumbai is so non-judgmental that I've completely fallen in love with the city. Actually, I come from Uttarakhand, but I've never stayed there for long. I was born in Kashmir, raised all across - Gurdaspur, Jaipur, Gwalior, Delhi and now Mumbai. But I think out of all these, I will choose Mumbai.

**What is your biggest asset as an actor?**
I see a lot of actors not even changing their looks, let alone changing their mannerism and accent. When I compare myself with them – call it a human trait - I see that all my characters are very different in terms of looks, accents, nuances and I believe that is something which sets me apart.

**What has been the turning point in your career?**
My journey as an actor has just started, so I wouldn't want to jinx it by saying that was my turning point. But if I look back, surely 'Aspirants', because after that people started recognizing me as a full-time actor.

**What is your biggest challenge?**
To convince makers that they should believe in the character and not the worldly stature of an actor. When people tell me I am an amazing actor, versatile, and have worked with the best of directors – the issue is that they want an A-lister or a bigger star. Convincing people to stay true to their story and the character has been a big challenge.

**A skill that you picked up while prepping for a role...**
I practiced football for two months for 'Maidaan' because I played a player's part, which eventually never happened. I got to play the commentator's part.

**How has the journey been so far in the world of acting?**
I am not a trained actor. I just got into it by luck and over the past few years I've worked with the best of directors in the industry - Anurag Kashyap, Ashwini Iyer Tiwari, Amit Sharma, Navdeep Singh and Ajay Behl. I've been a part of some very interesting stories. I am enjoying it.

**What is the best bit about being a part of OTT hits?**
I think hits or flops, you really can't predict in any form of storytelling, be it literature, cinema or OTT stories. But when you're a part of an OTT story, the best thing is the makers won't want to upcast - go to a bigger star. Most makers want to stay true to their story, which gives actors like me more opportunities, more chances we can stay true to our characters and there is no pressure of box office numbers. It is a beautiful thing that makes this platform interesting.

**Share an anecdote or interaction with any actor on the sets...**
I am not a trained actor so every time I am on a set with any director or actor, even when we are rehearsing, I learn a lot. And my performance depends on my co-actor a lot. But if I were to pick one incident, it'll have to be doing this sketch with Irrfan Khan. He would improvise as an actor and you had to be on your toes. If you failed to react, the scene would fall flat.

**A word that describes you best?**
I think 'hard working' because there are so many, such amazing actors, talented actors around me. You can question my talent, skillset and craft, but you can't question my hard work.

**If you could you would do what?**
If I could, I would make myself a superstar so that the actor in me can get more chances to work with great directors.

**Your fitness routine?**
I've always been a thin, lanky guy because of my Pahadi genes. I was doing a lot of mixed martial arts for the last couple of years. But now, I'm in this industry, and I have to look a certain way. I started weight training to gain weight and muscles.

**What's next?**
There is one feature film which is at a very initial stage of discussion. A short film with Manish Seni, a national award winner. Aspirants 3 is on the cards, and we shoot soon.

# Food's an invitation to celebrate, not test of will-power

Mindful eating doesn't cut down on celebrations - it enhances your satisfaction, explains clinical dietitian **Jahnavi Bhograj**

Taste Buds

Mindful eating - the art of being fully present while eating - allows you to experience the richness of special meals while still caring for your body. It's not about cutting out sweets - it's about slowing down enough to truly savour them. When you approach food with mindfulness, celebration and well-being can coexist.

This year-end season, replace guilt with gratitude and make nourishment a part of the celebrations.

### Traditional and smart

Older generations didn't count calories, they trusted rhythm, season and local logic. Delicacies were designed for satiety, strength and seasonal balance.

Ghee provides essential fats that support skin and joint health, and aid vitamin absorption. Jaggery acts as a gentle digestive and source of iron - no wonder it's enjoyed after heavy meals. Nuts and seeds such as sesame, cashew and almond deliver sustained energy and help stabilise blood-sugar levels during celebrations.

Instead of rejecting these foods, reframe them as nourishment in moderation. Portion awareness is the key, one laddoo savoured with attention satisfies more deeply than three eaten distractedly.

### Building a balanced festive plate

As modern nutrition science confirms, your body is remarkably intuitive. When you eat slowly, taste fully, and listen to hunger cues, balance happens naturally. Restriction often backfires - deprivation leads to over-indulgence later.

Before every special meal, take a mindful pause and ask, 'How hungry am I right now?' If you're truly hungry, eat with presence and purpose. Between meals, choose gentle beverages that soothe the system - herbal teas such as tulsi, chamomile, fennel or ginger-cinnamon help support digestion, reduce bloating and steady blood sugar level. Even a simple jeera-ajwain infusion can ease heaviness after rich foods.

Mindful eating doesn't cut down on celebrations - it enhances digestion and satisfaction. A balanced plate ensures steady energy levels, better blood-sugar control and reduced post-meal sluggishness.

## Balanced thali

Half the plate: Fibre-rich vegetables, dals or fresh salads to add volume and antioxidants.

Quarter: Delicacies – sweets and savouries - in moderation.

Quarter: A protein or complex-carbohydrate source such as pulses, paneer or millets to improve satiety and prevent sugar spikes.

This simple structure keeps energy steady and digestion light. When hosting parties, make balance a part of the table - add a vibrant beetroot raita, seasonal fruit platter or herbal-infused water alongside the sweets. Subtle reminders of nourishment make your meals mindful.

### Reset gently

The mornings after celebrations call for renewal, not restriction. Forget crash detoxes and choose gentle resets that support natural cleansing.

Start your day with warm water infused with lemon, cumin or ajwain to awaken digestion. Go for light, hydrating meals such as fruits, curd rice, vegetable soups or moong-dal khichdi. Step outside for a walk in the morning sun - it supports metabolism, mood and digestion through activation of the body's rest-and-digest response. Your body doesn't need punishment - it needs rhythm, rest and kindness.

The deepest nourishment comes not from what's on the plate, but from how you receive it. Food isn't a test of will-power, it's an invitation to joy.

# Are you ready to play the gracious host?

Party Time

November is just around the corner and the year-end begins. This is the time for parties to celebrate the year that was, and catch up with old friends you did not have enough time for through the year.

Now, the question is, are you ready to play the gracious host and throw some parties your friends will never forget? Fret not if you don't have a plan in mind. Here are some tips to get you started.

**Begin planning:** The earlier you start on the planning the better it is. Start with a list of guests you want to host and potential dates for the parties.

Theme and menu: It is always fun to have a theme for your party. It can be reflected in the decor and dress code. Plan a theme and menu to go with it. Planning this now gives you time to find the right caterer later.

**Invite in style:** Your invitation says a lot – it shows how much you care and want the guest to come. Get a designer to prepare some creative invitations that your guests will always remember. It will also be a tipping point if they have more than one invitation on that date!

**Get started on decor:** This can be cumbersome. So, begin getting your home ready for the parties – lighting, seating and buffet table/bar. If you have a large garden and the option of spilling onto it from the living room, have it manicured and landscaped now.

**Gift a memory:** Finally, plan a gift for your guests. Let them leave with a happy memory and something to cherish for the years to come.

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# Wknd. STYLE FILE

Go with what suits you best. Never copy what someone you idolise for appearance wears

DRESSED TO KILL

**WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE**

## LESS IS MORE

It's critical to apply the right amount of make-up for every occasion. A general formula that works when in doubt is 'less is more'. Go with a basic lightweight foundation just a touch of blush and thin eyeliner, using long-lasting make-up. Groom your eyebrows. This works well for business meetings.

## SIMPLE GROOMING FOR ALL

Grooming needn't involve extensive and elaborate routines. Simple practices such as deep cleansing, moisturising, using sunscreen when outdoors and regular exfoliating are enough for a well-groomed appearance. Basic hair and nail care will add up to give you the striking look you want.

# Make your presence felt

A personal stylist is a necessity these days when image and how you carry yourself make a difference, writes **Swatee Jog**

Aruna Kamat, a tech entrepreneur, was always comfortable in her regular shirt-trouser combo or even T-shirt and jeans attire. But once during a pitch to a panel of investors, she found her casual attire was perceived as not-so-serious. That is when she realised she was clueless about the right fits, colours, garments, footwear, make-up and the whole spectrum of grooming.

Aruna has now taken on board Meher Shaw, a personal stylist, who helps her groom during public appearances. Personal stylists are different from personal shoppers who only do the right shopping, suitable to your personality and budget. They go beyond attire into shaping your overall look suitable for the occasion.

## Get your STYLE RIGHT

In a world where appearance often precedes introduction, the role of a personal stylist has moved from luxury to necessity for many. Once seen only with celebrities, stylists are now guiding entrepreneurs, professionals and even brides-to-be on everything from clothes and make-up to posture, media presence and event dressing.

Dr Jyoti Malhotra, a dermatologist, started her own podcasts to create awareness about her services. Initially she wore her regular outfits and did her own make-up. But that did not cut a favourable picture on screen. "I did not realise I looked so different and too old for my age on screen with my regular style", she says.

Now with a stylist's help, she has moved to pastels, formals and a muted make-up palette. She is also trained on facial expressions, gestures and gets regular help during her stage appearances for medical conferences with sarees or pant-suits and suitable accessories. Dr Malhotra vouches for a personal stylist "It has added tons to my confidence and also public perception" she says.

## Choosing the right STYLIST

Check portfolio: Social media handles carry reviews about the person's work. Do their clients' looks appeal to you?

Ask about networks: Good stylists have access to designers and make-up artists you can't easily reach.

Look for versatility: A good stylist should handle both formal and casual engagements.

Ensure compatibility: Your stylist should enhance your personality, not impose a look you are uncomfortable with.

Test: Go for advice for a single event before committing long-term.

## Strategists of APPEARANCE

A personal stylist's job goes well beyond 'what you should wear'. The best ones are 'strategists of appearance'.

Here's the value they add:

Curate wardrobe: They source pieces that suit your body structure, skin tone and personal taste.

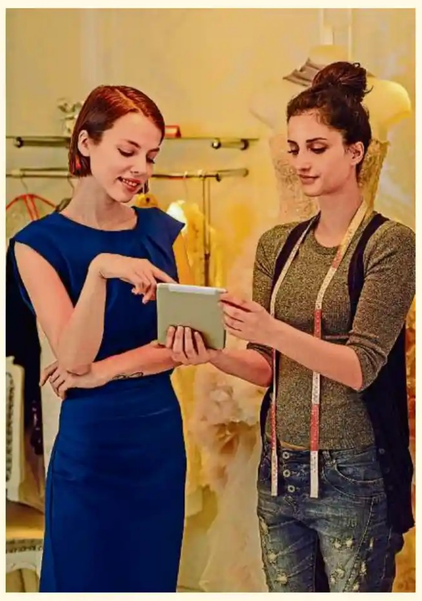
Guide make-up and grooming choices: They pick what's best-suited for work, parties, conferences, meetings or camera appearances.

Track new trends: They ensure you look updated without being a fashion victim.

Train for camera and media: They work on how you should carry yourself on stage, pose for press photos or video interviews.

Prepare for events: Whether it's a talk, a destination wedding, an investor pitch or a boardroom address, they help you prepare.

Padmapriya Jain, a travel influencer, swears by her stylist who builds capsule wardrobes for her travel-heavy schedule. "I used to pack five outfits for two days. Now I carry three pieces that can be mixed into six looks - efficient and stylish."



## Spring in YOUR STEP

Styling is not just about clothes - it's about confidence calibration. A stylist notices if you slouch, sweat under lights or feel awkward in heels etc, and adapts. Sometimes, the best advice isn't 'wear red' but 'powder your T-zone before stepping on stage'.

As an image consultant and personal stylist, Meher Shaw, says, "The outfit is only 40 per cent of the look. The other 60 per cent is how you feel in it. If you feel powerful, you will carry even the simplest kurta like couture."

In today's hyper-visible age, where Instagram feeds, Net meetings and event photographs create a personal brand, having a stylist is less about indulgence and more about managing perception with authenticity.

## LEISURE

### Beetle Bailey

ARE YOU STILL IN BED?!
WELL, I WAS LYING ON A DREAMY TROPICAL BEACH...
UNTIL YOU KICKED SAND IN MY FACE
GREG + MORT WALKER
4/27
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### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

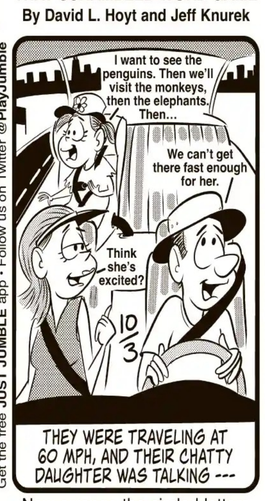
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUAEM

ROMNI

GRELIB

NATGME


I want to see the penguins. Then we'll visit the monkeys, then the elephants. Then...
We can't get there fast enough for her.
Think she's excited?
10/3
THEY WERE TRAVELING AT 60 MPH, AND THEIR CHATTY DAUGHTER WAS TALKING ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

AMUSE MINOR GERBIL MAGNET

They were traveling at 60 MPH, and their chatty daughter was talking — A MILE A MINUTE

### HITORI-117

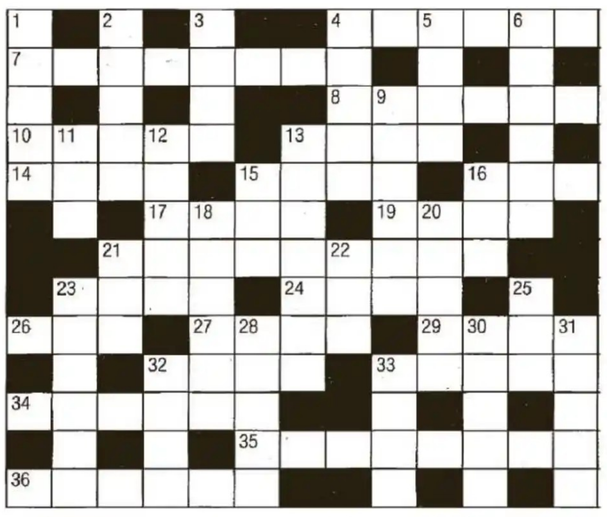
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 3 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

**SOLUTION for HITORI-119**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | ■ | 6 |
| ■ | 7 | ■ | 1 | 3 | ■ | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | ■ | 8 | 7 | 3 | ■ |
| ■ | 4 | ■ | 6 | 5 | ■ | 7 | 3 |
| 7 | ■ | 5 | 3 | ■ | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | ■ | 8 | 1 | 2 | ■ | 4 | ■ |
| 3 | ■ | 7 | 4 | ■ | 1 | ■ | 5 |
| ■ | 5 | 3 | ■ | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

### CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 120



**EASY**

**ACROSS**
4 Grips (6)
7 In the open air (8)
8 Small restaurant (6)
10 Era (5)
13 Facility (4)
14 Ceremony (4)
15 Rolls of banknotes (4)
16 Supporter (3)
17 Ruminant mammal (4)
19 American state (4)
21 French cheese (9)
23 Cutting remark (4)
24 Assistant (4)
26 Hiatus (3)
27 Nobleman (4)
29 Unfortunately (4)
32 Summit (4)
33 Gaze (5)
34 Besoms (6)
35 Examines closely (8)
6 Explosions (6)

**DOWN**
1 Highland games log (5)
2 Astir (5)
3 Net (4)
4 Putrefy (2,3)
5 Church recess (4)
6 Social outcast (6)
9 Gave out (6)
11 Mine (3)
12 Tree (5)
13 Set aside (7)
15 Very small (3)
16 Not thin (3)
18 Symbol (6)
20 Deal with (5)
21 Head covering (3)
22 Offer (3)
23 Cask (6)
25 Conflict (3)
28 Fertile spot (5)
30 Jousting weapon (5)
31 Perceive (5)
32 Seedcases (4)
33 Drinks gingerly (4)

**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
7 A mere bagatelle that seems somehow drinkable! (3,5)
8 Sex, it seems, makes a senior officer turn red (6)
10 Is she the one for a Frenchman? (5)
13 Join up for a singular course (4)
14 Bound to upset us again (4)
15 Report from a suburban garden (4)
16 We get a headpiece that's maybe too small (3)
17 Left uncle out – what a blow! (4)
19 Australasian word of regret (4)
21 They prevent young attendants from continuing (9)
23 Just for the record, a police inspector's cool head (4)
24 It can't fly, and may hear amiss (4)
26 Can you play it with your eyes shut? (3)
27 District where there's a reason to be childless? (4)
29 A double-dealing game (4)
32 Perform quiet, lazy pieces (4)
33 A name in fashion? (5)
34 Ominously devilish fellow in movies (6)
35 To overindulge us with love would be lovely indeed! (8)
36 It's hard to cut a key (6)

**DOWN**
1 It consumes juice and may take a sip out of the hogshead (5)
2 The heat in a strange room (5)
3 Accept the proceeds (4)
4 Being wrong, it's the first thing to do (5)
5 Goose's reply to what the pig said? (4)
6 Subjects he's met going around (6)
9 Hire someone to join in conversation? (6)
11 Manage to get a French one at the air terminal (3)
12 Comfortable accommodation for some honest souls (5)
13 Just the creature to wallop its victim? (7)
15 Soft, edible part of a crab apple (3)
16 Lived in the western part of Asia (3)
18 Where something happened to a pub at Mile End (6)
20 Smallest in a large way! (5)
21 Yes, an apple core is not greatly refreshing (3)
22 Exclamation by a lieutenant coming to a halt? (3)
23 Many a game spoilt by injury (6)
25 Being a good mate, will wash up (3)
28 As far as a cowboy can ride? (5)
30 One of a pair only changed at one point (5)
31 Dietary contribution to soft comfort? (5)
32 Do you long for such furniture? (4)
33 Herb is a wise old fellow (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 120**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 4. B-lotto 7. Pint-able 8. Gen-der 10. I-Rene 13. Link(-s) 14. Su-re 15. Bang 16. We-e 17. S-t-am 19. Alas 21. Stop-pages 23. Di's-c 24. Rhea 26. Nap 27. Area 29. Snap 32. P-la-y 33. Style 34. Damien 35. Gorge-O-us 36. Sever-E.
**DOWN:** 1. Ap-h-is 2. Anger 3. Take 4. Begin 5. Oink 6. Themes 9. Engage 11. R-un 12. Nests 13. Lam-prey 15. Bap 16. W-As 18. Local-e 20. L-east 21. Si-p 22. Aha 23. D-a-mage 25. Pal (lap) 28. Range 30. Nylo-N 31. P-ease 32. Pine 33. Sage.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 4. Grasps; 7. Alfresco; 8. Bistro; 10. Epoch; 13. Ease; 14. Rite; 15. Wads; 16. Fan; 17. Deer; 19. Utah; 21. Camembert; 23. Barb; 24. Aide; 26. Gap; 27. Lord; 29. Alas; 32. Peak; 33. Stare; 34. Brooms; 35. Inspects; 36. Blasts.
**DOWN:** 1. Caber; 2. Afoot; 3. Mesh; 4. Go bad; 5. Apse; 6. Pariah; 9. Issued; 11. Pit; 12. Cedar; 13. Earmark; 15. Wee; 16. Fat; 18. Emblem; 20. Treat; 21. Cap; 22. Bid; 23. Barrel; 25. War; 28. Oasis; 30. Lance; 31. Sense; 32. Pods; 33. Sips.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

Oversized and chunky knitwear is trendy and warm – just right for evening outdoor parties

WINTER WEAR

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

## COLOURS FOR COOL DAYS

What better ways to brighten dull winter days than with a splash of colour? A bright shirt over pastel shade trousers can go well both on weekends and as formal workwear. Bring out your bright ties and large belts for that stylish edge. Get your bright ensembles to work as a mood-enhancers.

## HEADING FOR ELEGANCE

The winter's when you can experiment with headgear to top your ensemble with. Women can go for a beret over formal wear while outdoors. A golf cap works well for men in business suits. Knitted headgear is a good option for the cold outdoors in the evenings.

Winter **Ready**

### Layer by layer

The winter gives you the luxury of layering. So, plan your winter wardrobe now with a focus on layering. Build on a base that is water and cold-resistant. Go for bright colours. Check out the latest styles in blazers and coats. Indulge in the wool and bring out the scarf that also makes a style statement.

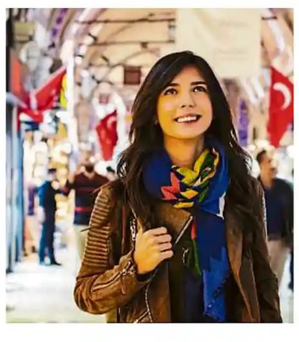
### Coated with style

Winter is the season for coats. You can wear them all day long. Whether a formal suit for a business meeting or a blazer for that evening get-together, the coat comes in handy both against the cold and to make your presence felt. You can even wear them over jeans informally. They serve well in a layered ensemble too.

### SET WITH SWEATER

Whether a sleeveless one for the sunny mornings or a heavy one for the cold outdoors, a sweater is a must-have part of a winter wardrobe. It serves you well during outdoor parties. It is also a good option to beat the office air conditioning as it can also go well with formal wear. Pick one to add a splash of colour too.

### SCARF FOR COLOUR



While a scarf is a good winter cover when outdoors, it is also a good way to infuse a pop of colour to your ensembles this season. A scarf goes with all styles – formal and casual weekend wear. It serves you as a style element with a coat and can also be teamed with jeans and cotton shirt.

# Glowing in green

This stone goes well in both contemporary and heirloom styles, says **Swatee Jog**

Stone **Tone**

Recently, a large blue gemstone was hogging the limelight, and deservedly so. It earned reams of newsprint space when a stylish business tycoon wore it at a film premiere. It made headlines when Hollywood film stars wore it at the Oscars this year. That's the Paraiba Tourmaline. From its dramatic discovery in Paraiba- Brazil to the large, vivid stones now mined in Africa, Paraíba Tourmalines have become a favourite of celebrities, designer jewellery houses and private collectors.

What set them apart is a striking, almost electric blue-green glow caused by traces of copper (and in some stones, traces of manganese) - a colour unlike most other tourmalines. As Brazil's original deposits were depleted, comparable copper-bearing tourmalines were later found in Mozambique and Nigeria. Today, stones from Mozambique are a major source for designers.

The Paraíba Tourmaline is highly coveted for its unique neon blue-green glow that makes it stand out even in dim light and pairs well with any gemstone. It is rare - especially since the original Brazilian mines are nearly depleted. This stone is also versatility which allows it to be designed in both modern minimalist and ornate vintage designs, pairing beautifully with diamonds, sapphires and warm gold tones. Women can pair Paraiba jewellery with classic Indian sarees as necklace pendants and Indo-Western outfits or even a pant suit as a brooch or earrings.

### How you can wear Paraíbas

Paraíba Tourmaline's striking blue colour makes it perfect as a modern statement piece and elegant heirloom jewellery. They can be worn with classic chiffon sarees, salwar suits or even with Western dresses, depending on the style of the jewellery.

### Here are some tips:

**Solitaire rings:** A vivid Paraíba set in a simple bezel or four-prong setting lets the colour sing.

**Halo settings:** Diamonds around a Paraíba increase perceived size and make the blue pop.

**Earrings and pendants:** Matched pairs or asymmetric styles work well for daily wear. The gem's brightness keeps pieces lively even with casual outfits.

**Mixed-gem pieces:** Paraíba pairs gorgeously with warm yellow gold and white diamonds, and designers sometimes accent with sapphires or emeralds for contrast.

Jigna Agrawal, a homemaker, says, "For my 40th birthday, I wanted a ring that felt modern and alive, and so I chose the Paraiba. Its glow is a conversation starter". Jigna spent quite an amount for the ring, which was studded with smaller diamonds on the side. "It's the colour people notice first." She adds and feels it's a wise investment too, considering its rarity.

Vartika Panigrahi, a business analyst with an MNC, found the pendent in her mother's closet was actually a Paraiba. She then started reading about the gem. "I wore my mom's Paraíba pendant to a business dinner and received a whole lot of compliments. It reads like a jewel and a statement at once", she says. Vartika had never paid much attention to the gem lying in her locker until the world took notice. She plans to add the pendant to a diamond necklace for her upcoming wedding.

# Groomed to groove

**Shilpi Madan** explains how you can stay fresh and glowing through those long party nights

Party **Time**

Everyone loves a touch-up on the make-up as the party progresses. Here are ways you can stay looking fresh and glowing through 24 hours.

### Care up

Follow a dedicated skincare routine with cleansing, moisturising and sunscreen during the day. At night, apply a long-stay serum and the night cream packed with antioxidants. Apply a skin tightening, glow mask (a Japanese rice mask works well) twice a week as the late nights can leave your skin looking tired and puffy.

### Tank up

Hydrate well. Ensure you tank up on enough water especially with the weather fluctuations, stress of balancing work with social life, and travelling. Coconut water is a wonderful natural electrolyte that leaves your skin looking fresh, the more you sip on it.

### Facial oil

The best time to apply that kumkumadi or jojoba oil on your face is in the morning. Wear it till the time you dive into your bath. The application replenishes the loss of the natural oils from your skin due to the impact of free radicals and pollution.

### Lip care

Use a lip scrub gently over your lips to remove the dead skin and keep them looking fresh and supple. A spot of rosehip lip oil at night works beautifully in making your lips look bright, and healthy. A lip sunscreen application helps in fobbing pigmentation.

### For your pearly whites

Ensure you get a dental clean up done routinely. This brightens your teeth and gifts you a beautiful, dazzling smile, ridding your molars and canines of tartar and possible bad breath. Since you tend to consume a lot of snacks – with garlicky inclusions – at parties, pop in a clove or cardamom to chew on now and then as a breath freshener.

### Stay groomed

Get a good hair cut or trim as needed, and ensure your hair stays lustrous with Moroccan oil spritz. Show your tresses some love, by styling them. Maintain your eyebrows and de-whisker regularly. A well-groomed appearance puts the spring in your step.

# Eye it right

**Shilpi Madan** has some tips to help you play up your eyes with a dash of love and clever make-up this party season

Make **Up**

Make your eyes the showstopper in your face through skilful artistry with make-up. Here is your easy guide to looking good.

### Make a mark

Define the natural curve of your eyebrows. Make use of a pebble grey or dark brown eye pencil to fill in your brows, lending them greater definition. You can then use a small comb to brush up your eyebrows.

Remember, your brows are an important face definer. Making them look too harsh by using jet black, will lend them an unfriendly edge. Soften the shape by using a transparent mascara.

### Even up

If your eyelids are brown, apply a bit of concealer or foundation to rev up the complexion for an even application of eye make-up. Lighter tones on the inside of the eye, and darker as you move away towards the outer edge is the rule to follow.

### Magic on

Bring on the sparkle and highlighter towards the outer corners of your eyes. Line the inside of your lower lid, and part of your upper lid, with a black kohl stick. This rims the eyes perfectly, lending them an almond shape.

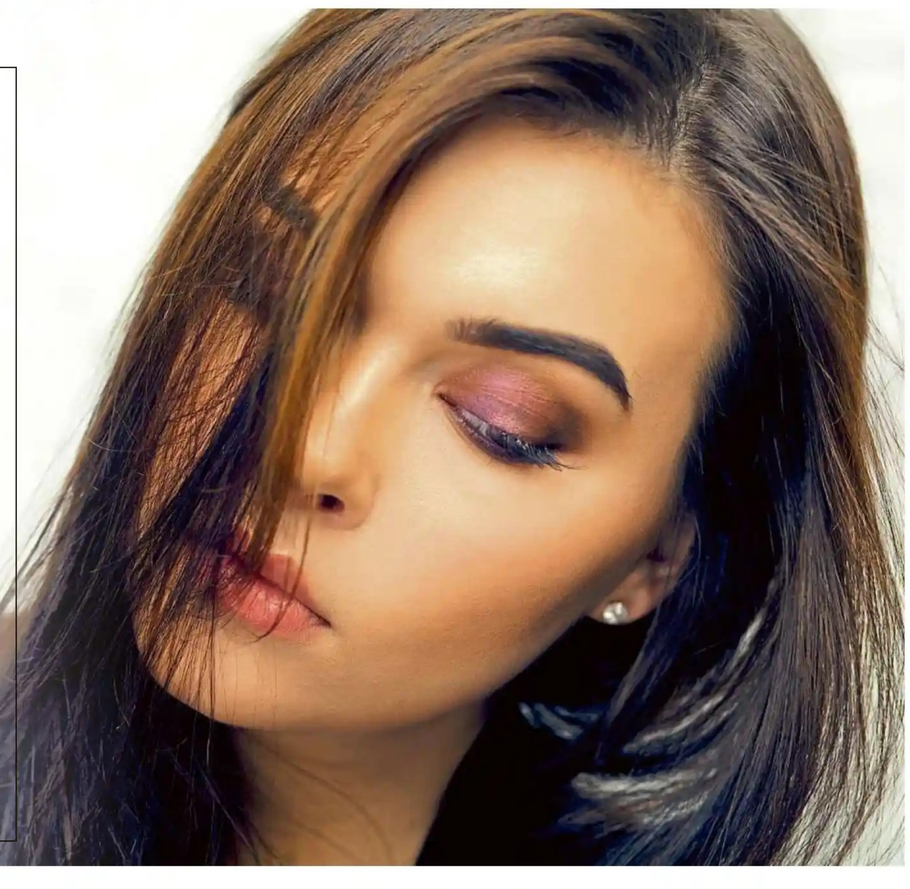
Remember to dab away the product from your under-eye area after finishing your eye make-up. It is a good idea to finish the make-up on your eyes first before beginning with the base make-up on the rest of your face.

### Lash line

Make use of a lash serum, or castor oil to lengthen those lashes naturally and thicken the brows. This daily ritual lends good definition to your face. Run a liquid eye liner along the upper and lower lids and let it dry in seconds before you take to the mascara. Remember, a mascara tube lasts you a few months – the moment it begins to clump up or smell awry, discard it. Apply in firm strokes on the inside length and the outside length of both the upper and lower eyelashes for dramatic effect.

### Tip top points

- Bat your lashes a few times to check for any unwanted product deposit before you bid bye to the mirror.
- Keep a clean ear bud handy in your bag to zap away any deposit that collects at the inside of your eyes if it is a late night.
- Invest in water-resistant eye liner and mascara to prevent an ungainly run of eye make-up.
- Always use a brush applicator to apply the eye shadow. Else make use of a sponge or your ring finger.
- Avoid using face scrubs on the eyelids to remove the make-up. Go gentle with baby oil application and follow up with a damp cotton pad.



# Wknd. VARIETY

You need to be careful while mixing warm and cool tones as a combo in furnishings. Go for contrasts if you are not sure

**COLOUR CODE**

## WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

### HOME MAKEOVER

It's time to plan a new makeover for your living spaces. The winter is around the corner, and it is time to put away your monsoon decor and furnishings. Get some warmth indoors with heavier decor and warm colours. This is the time for more depth and layering with your fabrics.

### COLOUR SAYS IT ALL

Get your decor to exude warmth with colour combos. Earthy red and brown make your spaces cosy during the winter. Brown is a good base colour too - both aesthetic and comforting during the cold days. Infuse colour with area rugs. Bring about a colour combo with layered drapes over windows.

## Winter Hues

**Go bold**

This is a good season for bright and dark colours. Deep emerald and bright red shades bring about warmth and drama in your interior decor. Get a theme involving dark colours to run through the living spaces. You can also use lighting to accentuate the shades.

**GREEN SHEEN**

All shades of green bring in a touch of Nature to your decor. Greens go well with both wood and metal accents. If you don't have indoor plants, greens in furnishings add that touch to your living spaces. Get greens in with light curtains between rooms.

**WHITE MAGIC**

Off-white shades are good choices for the winter. Ivory white linen and drapes create a soft ambience just right for the winter. Avoid bright white – its both difficult to maintain and gives your interiors a hospital-like ambience. Bright white works well in the outdoors though.

**Colour with texture**

You can infuse colour combinations with textures. Knits and layering are simple ways to create texture and contrast. Use knits for your cushion covers. The winter is a good season to layer drapes over your windows. If you have large windows add tassels. You can create colour combos using tassels.

**THROW THEM IN**

Throw cushions add warmth and cheer to the living room. Create a riot of colour if you have a large sofa. Mix and match colours and textures in your collection of throw pillows. Embroidery and mirror work add charm. You can create contrast with your sofa using throw pillows.

# Supper at the club!

Hungry for authentic cuisine, comfort of home and good company, these food clubs are sough-after by many, writes **Swatee Jog**

## Dine In

Nikita Mirchandani, a chartered accountant, quit her MNC job after her two children were born. After they started going to school, she felt she should do something of her own rather than enter the corporate world again. Nikita has been a great host to her friends who relish her Sindhi dishes. With some inspiration from the current Supper Club trend, Nikita has started a Supper Club at one of her friends' studio apartment. "I always wanted to open a restaurant but the costs are exorbitant and it would have needed almost my entire day. Also, I didn't want to open my house to guests yet, so we decided to use the friend's apartment which was vacant" she says.

Nikita plans her Supper Club a month in advance. She designs cute invites, with the menu and some details such as date and time, to announce on her social media handle. Limited to just 10 guests, it gets booked quickly. Nikita makes specialty dishes such as Bhee Aloo which is a curry made with lotus stem and potatoes, a popular vegetable in Sindhi cuisine, Sawa Phota - a winter-special dish made from fresh chickpea pods either boiled and spiced or roasted, and other dishes served over five courses. Sometimes she has the regular Sindhi dishes such as Sai Bhaji and Sindhi Kadhi too, but only on demand, and focuses more on unusual and rare Sindhi dishes and desserts.

### Supper Clubs offer exclusivity

From Mumbai's SoBo terraces to Delhi's leafy colonies, from Bengaluru's creative lofts to London's converted warehouses, supper clubs are redefining what it means to share a meal. It is largely owing to the allure of getting to try unknown delicacies from diverse cuisines which is rarely available in restaurants. So, you have Jain foods, north Karnataka cuisine or even someone serving typical Saraswat Brahmin food at Supper Clubs which are getting popular.

Keval and Nandita Menon, a techie couple, found out about a supper club through social media. "We had tried cuisines from all over the world and were intrigued to try something authentic", says Keval who paid around Rs 3,500 per person including beverages and a goodie bag. The ambience is more like eating out, yet belonging in, they say, and plan to try some more.

### Trend catching on

What works for supper clubs is the exclusivity of the dishes and the intimate nature of the gathering. The host's recipes, stories and narrations add charm. Add to it exotic dishes served over five or even 7-9 course meals, spread over two hours, which becomes an experience in itself, and you have something hotels cannot match.

### It's a win-win

Vedang and Jahnvi Bharadwaj, software professionals in Hyderabad, wanted to open a Delhi style restaurant in the city but were sceptical about how it will be received. Janhvi has experimented with some famous Delhi staples and adds her own variations, making the food fun and fulfilling.

They decided to start a supper club first to test the waters. To their surprise, their 20-seater by-invitation-only Sunday supper club evenings were sold out at Rs 5,000 per person including drinks. With just one session every month, they are now planning to stay this course for a while.

"It allows us the freedom from rentals, heavy investment in equipment, staff and the permissions", says Vedang. However, the planning starts a month in advance while the actual preparation begins a day early with their two house helps pitching in. Janhvi sources exotic vegetables, fruit and ingredients which come expensive. They accept guests mostly by referrals and rarely strangers.

Supper clubs are here to stay and some are even getting a corporate makeover. With people craving for authentic food and human connections, they have been a boon for the foodies from the cities.

# Show off your pearly whites

Some care for your gums and teeth at home brings on a winsome smile, says **Shilpi Madan**

## Glow On

As you dress up for the party season, pay attention to your oral care. Make sure your gums are healthy and your teeth are at their sparkling best. Visiting the dentist with an oral health issue isn't anyone's idea of fun. Here are ways to work in the healthy dental routine.

### Game changer

If you are recovering from the flu, change your toothbrush. You should discard your toothbrush every month to replace it with a new one. Ensure you use a separate box for accessing dental floss and your personal tongue cleaner.

Keep the toothbrush capped and away from the toilet section of the bathroom to prevent transfer of air-borne germs.

### Go small

Make use of a tiny feather brush to access tougher regions of your mouth to work away the food particles. You can use an electric brush, but ensure that the bristles are soft. Else the tooth enamel stands endangered as it is subject to wear and tear.

If you are choosing to use a charcoal brush, go gentle on the movement on the teeth as charcoal in itself is harsh.

### Ayurveda way to fresh breath

**Ayurveda suggests the consumption of one raw tomato every day to keep bad breath away. The astringent qualities of citric and malic acid in tomatoes naturally cleans the surfaces of teeth if the tartar deposits are minimal.**

### Rinse away

Rinse your mouth after every intake and make use of a tongue cleaner to expel the germs and to keep mouth odour away. Chewing gum and mint does more harm than good. Intake of wine, tea and coffee also subjects the teeth to stains. It is a good idea to sign up for a professional clean up every six months at the dentist's clinic.

### Hydrate well

Drink adequate water to keep your teeth healthy. Avoid soft processed foods, sugary drinks and sticky, chewy items as they bring in plaque. Lack of proper hydration also promotes bad breath. Keep in mind that chewing tough foods like popcorn kernel can damage the tooth fillings. Just like sugary fluids attack tooth enamel.

Desist from smoking as this limits blood flow to your mouth, making it easier for bacteria to grow.

# Get more space at home

**Shilpi Madan** explains how you can create an illusion of space in your interiors

## Home Front

Looking at expanding your apartment? You can achieve this by weaving clever elements to your decor. Here are five cool ways to make the fluid space run easy in your home.

### Go single

Choose shades of a colour that huddle together on the colour wheel. Enjoy the palette in your home with the sandy hues moving into sage, terracotta and off-whites. A marked digression could be a pop up in the form of a wild cushion cover, a rug or a show piece.

Remember, a unified space brings in a sense of continuity. Adhering to the same flooring throughout your house helps in achieving the feeling of largeness.

### Mirror it

Nothing succeeds like the art of reflection. Mount an antique mirror in the tiny passage to play up the space, include a darling mirror in the small lobby and bring in the frosted glass separator in the bathrooms.

The element of translucence adds an unbeatable sense of lightness and movement to spaces.

### Light up

Let the natural light flow in. Make use of wispy curtains, celebrate the sunshine through bay windows and let the glass sliding doors bring the balcony in. Sun light livens up everything it touches, creating fluidity in every corner.

### Level right

Avoid bringing in almirahs with space-chomping lofts above them that tough the ceiling. The more the eye movement, the greater the illusion of space. Make way for cabinets and chairs, choosing levels that let your view wander beyond. This feeling of unison knits all the elements of the house together yet lets the eye wander freely.

Burrow into walls behind the doors to create storage spaces that are concealed.

### Move in

Elements that create movement always add a sense of depth and dimension to your spaces. Floating flowers in an urli at the entrance of your home, the bobbing micro greens on your window sills, the swaying chimes at the kitchen window, flickering candles in the evening.... even furry friends trotting in the house add to the joy and expanse.

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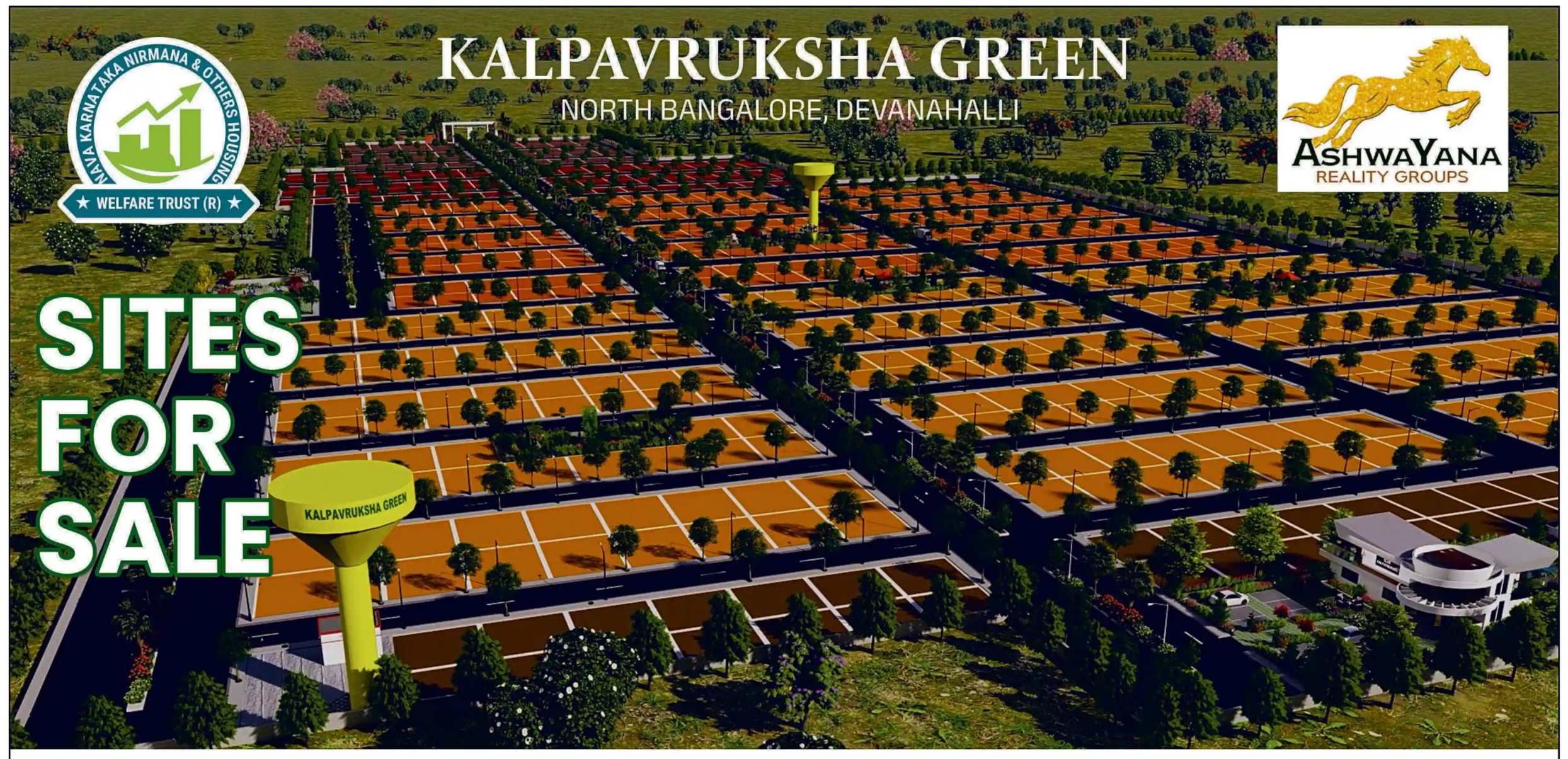


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